

Wednesday 13th January 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. The weather has certainly posed some challenges for us but, with Mrs Outlaw's hard work, we have managed to keep the school warm, floors not too wet and pathways gritted across the school yard.

The contractors have continued to work in spite of the below zero temperatures and I'm hoping this will carry on so that we don't experience any delays to the project.

Professional Development Days

This term we are holding one Professional Development Day on **Monday 22nd February**. The day will focus on Safeguarding Children and Assessment.

Evening Gazette Wish Tokens

Thank you to everyone who supported this promotion. We received a cheque from the Gazette for £55.45. The children decided that they would like the money to go towards equipment and plants for our allotment.

Cancer Support

Mrs Stephens, a parent of a pupil in Reception Class is very bravely, going to have her head shaved on Saturday 23rd January. She has requested that we ask for your help in raising money for Breast Cancer Research. This charity is very dear to her heart as a family member is currently undergoing treatment. If you would like to sponsor Mrs Stephens this can be done online at: www.donatetobreastcancer.org/annastephens_katecooper or money may be sent into school with details on the attached slip. Many thanks for your support.

After School Clubs

This term we are offering a number of new clubs to both younger and older children. These include Circus Skills and Drama Club. Chess, Choir, Gymnastics and Table Tennis all continue as permanent clubs.

An Art & Craft Club for children from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 is running this half term and we have a Mini Tennis Club planned for Years 1 & 2 for the second half of the term. Details will follow.

Drop-In Hearing Clinic

I have been asked to inform parents about this new clinic. Anyone wanting to look into it further should contact 'The Child Health Technicians' on 01642 606591.

Going Green

Since the first work commenced on our allotment in November 2008 the school has taken on a number of green projects. This academic year we became a 'Leading Climate Change School' which means that Mrs Cotton's class are focusing on climate change issues and ways in which we, as individuals, can save the world's resources. Wow - quite a tall order! The two weeks 'Switch Off' Scheme in November 2009 raised awareness amongst all our pupils of the need to conserve electricity and other forms of energy. The Eco Council were everywhere with stickers for those they caught remembering to switch off.

An exciting new project sees us developing links with an elementary school in Boston, USA. We are hoping that this will become an established partnership with opportunities for children from both schools to link up and discuss environmental issues. Mr Phil Hewitt, Parent Governor, has initiated the link and we are hopeful that it will lead to our school having a greater involvement in the Global Community.

Parking in Elmwood

I appreciate that I am labouring this point but I would request that parents do not drive into the Elmwood Road entrance to the school to drop children off / park or use the alley ways to exit. The road is extremely congested at the start and end of the day with children and families crossing. Any cars reversing or parking make it a very dangerous situation. I do appreciate all those parents who are parking away from the school grounds. I have also requested that the fresh fruit delivery comes at times other than the start or end of the school day.

Curriculum Areas being covered this Term

Accompanying the newsletter is information from each class on the topics they will be covering this term. We very much appreciate the time you give to ensuring homework is completed and returned on time and to helping children with spellings and times tables. A number of teachers have mentioned specific times for the handing out and returning of homework each week.

We are very keen to seek your views on all aspects of your children's learning. This term we shall be asking your opinion on the standards achieved, learning opportunities provided and the progress your child makes. The questionnaires will be shared with you at the Parent Consultation Meetings in March.

Targets

The children's individual targets in the form of a Mathematical Booklet and separate English Targets will be sent home on Friday 22nd January.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Winters (Mrs)
Head Teacher

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

Friday	22 nd January	Year 4 Pedestrian Level 2 Training 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday	27 th January	Family Basketball event Eggescliffe
Thursday	28 th January	Mrs Cotton's Class visit Warburton's Bread Factory a.m.
“	“	Cross Country Event Allens West Years 3, 4, 5 &6
Monday	1 st February	Year 3 Level 1 Pedestrian Training 1 p.m.
Friday	5 th February	Year 3 Level 1 Pedestrian Training 1 p.m.
“	“	Cross Country Final Preston Park
Wednesday	10 th February	Year 3 / 4 Football Eggescliffe School
Thursday	11 th February	Year 1 / Year 2 visit to Captain Cook Museum
“	“	Year 3 level 1 Pedestrian Training 1 p.m.
Friday	12th February	School Closes for Half Term break (Normal Time)
Monday	22nd February	Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday	23rd February	Children return to school
Thursday	4 th March	World Book Day
Friday	5 th March	Year 3 / 4 Wake Up & Shake Up Festival
Tuesday	9th March	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 – 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday	10th March	Parent Consultation Meetings 5.00 –7.00 p.m.
Thursday	1st April	School closes for the Easter break – (Normal Time)
Monday	19th April	Children return to school

Sponsorship Mrs Anna Stephens

I would like to sponsor Mrs Anna Stephens for the sum of £..... I am happy for the money to be donated to Cancer Research.

Signed: Child's Name:Class:

Curriculum Information for Spring 2010

Foundation Stage

Our topic this term is 'Holes'.

Nursery

In Communication, Language and Literacy we will be sharing stories initially about animals that live in holes. We will be encouraging the children to think about digging holes and using the proximity of the builders on the school site to inspire their role play and mark making. We will encourage the children to link sounds to letters focusing on a 'Sound of the Week'. The children will increase their awareness of rhyme and alliteration. They will become more familiar with books and learn vocabulary such as word, page, title and author.

In Mathematical Development, we will continue to practice number recognition and counting as often as possible! We will sing number rhymes and songs. We will compare quantities and begin to separate groups of items. We will look at practical number problems and encourage the children to use their own ideas to solve them.

The children will have the opportunity to bake foods and will use all of their senses, as appropriate, to enjoy eating them! They will be encouraged to explore their environment- looking for, explaining and creating holes.

The children will sing songs and be encouraged to respond to music. They will have the opportunity to work creatively with a range of materials and share their ideas with others.

Children will learn about using scissors safely as well as a range of tools for digging. The children will continue to have P.E. lessons in the school hall. We are helping children to develop increasing control over clothing and fastenings.

Our PSED topic is 'Going for Goals.' The children will be thinking about aspirations for the future and achievements that they have made.

Reception/Year1

We will be starting our topic by looking at man made holes such as mines, quarries, construction, drains etc. and will be taking the opportunity to link this to the current building work in school. The company involved in the construction has offered us a number of educational opportunities, which we are currently exploring. We intend to visit a quarry as part of our topic.

The children will be thinking about animal homes and, when the weather improves, we will be looking at which animals live in holes and burrows and looking for worms and ants in our local environment.

We will be continuing with daily phonics lessons, looking at reading and writing whole words and sentence construction. Thanks to all the Reception parents who are taking the time to look at the phonics books and to practice with their child. Don't worry if you feel your child hasn't quite mastered everything yet, we will be revisiting the letters and sounds. Don't forget to keep putting reading books in the yellow box, so that they are changed – the children themselves don't always remember!

In Numeracy, we will be looking at place value and developing the understanding of the difference between tens and units. We will also be practicing addition and subtraction and learning vocabulary such as, 'add', 'plus', 'altogether', 'subtract', 'minus' and 'less than'. We will be naming 2D and 3D shapes and starting to compare objects in terms of weight, capacity and size.

In Science the children will be solving problems, such as how to mend holes in different materials, investigating what makes things waterproof and what makes some objects float while others sink.

In RE the children will be looking at the story of Noah's Ark and also celebrations such as the Chinese New Year and Easter.

In P.E. the children will be covering gymnastics, dance and circle games.

Mrs Coates, Mrs Platts & Mrs Shields

Year 1 & Year 2

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Literacy this term will begin by looking at a range of '**Non Fiction**' books based around our topic **Captain Cook**. We will gather different information from the books to make a class information book on **Captain Cook**. The children will also have the opportunity to recount life on board **The Endeavour**. We will be exploring '**Stories with familiar settings**'. Our poetry theme is '**Really Looking**' and we will be reading a variety of poems based on this theme.

Spellings this term will continue to be based upon the letter sounds that children are learning in their 'phonic groups'. It is very important for children to phonetically practice their spellings. Reading regularly at home with your child will be extremely beneficial as this helps to develop their writing. Children can change their reading books on a daily basis.

In Mathematics, children will be extending their knowledge regarding numbers. The children will continue to develop their understanding of **place value** in 2 digit numbers. We will also be looking at how to **partition** numbers when adding or subtracting. Children will be learning strategies to solve number problems. Alongside number work, the children will be taught about how to read information from **tables and graphs** and they will have the opportunity to make their own to display information. Drawing your child's attention to tables e.g. Train, Bus Timetables, graphs e.g. Height, Weight, will help them to relate this to everyday life. Additionally, we will be identifying lines of **symmetry** on shapes.

Science this term is focused upon **Forces and Movement**. There will be a range of practical activities within this unit. The children will start by experimenting with how they make toys move using a push or pull. The children will then be encouraged to design their own investigation into how toy cars travel. During the second half of the term the children will be learning about **Grouping and Changing Materials**. This will involve them in grouping man-made and natural materials. We will also investigate reversible and irreversible changes to materials.

This term, the children will become Explorers during our **Captain Cook** topic. The topic starts by learning factual information about Captain Cook. The children will have the opportunity to travel back in time to discover key events in his life. We will make our own timeline of Captain Cook's life and investigate the different voyages that Captain Cook made. This will allow children to use maps. In Art we will be focusing on Aboriginal paintings and the children will attempt to make their own Aboriginal patterns and masks. There will be lots of occasions for children to use their imaginations during drama activities. I have also planned a visit to Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum at Stewart Park on the 11th February. The visit will consist of a tour around the Museum followed by a workshop. If you are available to come on our class visit please do let me know.

Miss Blair

Year 3 / Year 4

Some exciting cross-curricular projects form part of this term's work. Continuing our involvement with the Children Challenging Industry Project 'Kitchen Concoctions,' we will be visiting Warburton's Bread Factory at the end of January, to see how bread is produced on a large scale and the different aspects relating to this. Beforehand, the children will be carrying out their own investigations - making, tasting and evaluating different types of bread for flavour and value for

money. This also ties in with work on different Literacy styles such as instructional texts and report writing.

As part of another initiative, we shall also be considering aspects of Climate Change and ways in which our lifestyle choices are affecting this. We are hoping to be able to link up with a school in Boston, USA, to develop an understanding among the children that they are part of a 'bigger picture' and that the problems we are facing are world-wide in their impact.

Further aspects of Literacy to be covered are stories with families at the centre and the dilemmas that the characters face. Jacqueline Wilson's 'Suitcase Kid' and Lauren Child's 'Actually Me-Clarice Bean' will be two of the books we shall study.

Mini-Tennis coaching from Ann Clayton, will take place every Tuesday afternoon this half term, so please can you make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school at all times. If not, they will miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

The termly Maths homework continues and I'd like it to be returned to school each Monday morning please, so that homework may be given out each Tuesday for the next week. It would be helpful if the children could have some practical experiences handling money and working out change to support ongoing work in class. Spellings tests take place every Friday and new spellings will be issued then, (please check children have written them down!)

Mrs Cotton

Year 4 / Year 5

Literacy

We will focus mainly upon information texts, recounts (such as diary entries and newspaper reports) and stories which raise issues and dilemmas.

We had a big push on enjoyment of reading last academic year, and it is important that this is sustained. We are continuing to encourage reading at school, and I strongly feel this is a partnership and you can help by encouraging your child to read at home and by talking to them about their books e.g. what is happening, what do they think will happen and why, how do they feel about different characters etc. Parents can also help by promoting the reading of different text types, for example, newspaper articles, magazines, TV Guides.

Numeracy

Schofield and Sims continues to be an important part of our Math's work, and the children are keen to improve their scores and move onto more difficult problems. I'm happy to give your child some taster sheets from the next book up, for him/her to attempt at home with support. Let me know if you would like this to happen.

Please ensure your child works through the Weekly Times-Table booklet, which has been given out. You will find the dates for the marking of each sheet written on the page. We mark this as a whole class so it is important that work is completed and brought into school on time. Children not returning their homework will be asked to complete the work during their own time. This term we will be learning the 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables – please encourage your child to work on them.

Topic

Throughout the Spring Term we will be exploring 'Space' as a topic. Many of our lessons in History, Geography, ICT, Science, Literacy and Art will be based upon Space. We will explore four main areas within the topic; Planet Earth, Space Travel, Moon Landings and Out in Space.

If anyone has any relevant interests, artifacts or have ventured into space/walked on the Moon, please do get in touch. I can feel some sticky-back plastic moments coming on, so get collecting those yoghurt pots and Pringles tubes!

Science

Earth, Sun and Moon

The children will be taught to recognise that the Earth, Sun and Moon are spherical. We will also be explaining, in terms of the rotation of the Earth, why shadows change and the sun appears to move across the sky during the course of the day. The children will be investigating which part of the Earth has daylight over a period of 24 hours and understanding that the Moon orbits the Earth. Using various information / data the children will be involved in identifying patterns around sunset and sunrise.

Keeping healthy

The children will have the opportunity to identify the components of a varied and healthy diet. They will be looking into the effect of diet on health. We will also consider some of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. Children will investigate what happens to their heart during exercise and why this occurs. They will measure pulse rate and represent their results in the form of graphs explaining their findings to others.

Mr Robinson / Mrs Shields

Year 6

May I wish everybody a Happy New Year! I hope it proves to be a happy, healthy and successful 2010 for you and your family.

We very much appreciate the time and effort you put in to supporting your child's learning and hope that you are able to continue to do so during this important term – it really does make a huge difference!

Below, is a brief outline of the Year 6 curriculum for the Spring Term.

Numeracy

This term we will be concentrating on: **using calculators, converting 12hr. to 24hr. clock times, calculating time differences and interpreting and drawing graphs and charts.** As always, it would be of great benefit to your child if you could help them with the learning of their **times tables** – some of the Y6 children are still unsure of their tables facts and 5 minutes practice a day makes a huge difference over a term!

Literacy

The children will be learning how to write persuasively, including writing **'adverts' and letters to persuade.** We will study the art of writing a **'balanced argument'** and will continue to focus on our **speaking and listening** skills as we incorporate drama and debates into our curriculum. **Reading Comprehension** will also feature regularly throughout the weeks and it is really useful to spend time discussing your child's current reading book focusing on characters, settings, plot etc.

History

We will complete our topic (started last term) by continued study of **Ancient Greece** - focussing on battle tactics, The Olympic Games and legends and the legacies left by this ancient culture.

Geography

Children will develop their understanding and interest in current affairs as they study ‘**What’s in the News?**’ (including discussions concerning ‘climate change’)

Science

Initially, we will be studying ‘**Electricity**’ and ‘**Earth & Space**’. After half term we will be looking at ‘**Keeping Healthy**’. The children will be designing and carrying out **fair tests** and will be making predictions and conclusions.

ICT

We will be working with ‘**podcasts**’ and ‘**multi-media**’ programs. The children will use ICT to assist with their Maths and topic work (for example, they will be recording a ‘live’ radio advertisement to link with their Literacy work).

Music

The children will be focussing on ‘**composition**’ and ‘**musical notation**’ this term as well as continuing to develop their musical skills using their ‘brass’ instruments.

Art

This term the children will be learning about and developing their **drawing** skills with a focus on 3D work.

Technology

We will be finishing and evaluating our Greek clay pots.

P.E

‘**Gymnastics**’ is the main theme for this term - please ensure your child has the appropriate kit in school every **Tuesday** – just a reminder that Preston’s school kit consists of: *plain white T-shirt, navy shorts/gym slip and trainers/plimsolls*.

R.E

In R.E. we will be completing a ‘Bible Explorers’ course which looks at stories from the ‘**Old Testament**’. We will also study links between symbols and ‘meaning’ and the themes of justice, freedom and hope.

MFL (Modern Foreign Language)

Y6 children will be learning some basic spoken French – including phrases relating to hobbies, favourite foods, sports and time telling.

This term, *homework* will be set each **Monday** and is to be handed in on the following **Friday**. Please do take the time to discuss your child’s homework with them as your support is so valuable. You may recall at the Autumn Parents’ Consultation Evening that I highly recommended the web site at bbc.co.uk/bitesize (then follow link to [KS2 Maths English or Science](#)). This is a fun, interactive/activity based site and needs no password or fee!

Reminder: *SAT’s are 10th -14th May 2010* - please do avoid booking holidays during this week.

All the children made excellent progress last term and this is great credit to them. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

