

I hope you have all had a great Christmas and thank you so much for your good wishes, cards, gifts and vouchers from last term.

Our topic this term is all about "Homes and Materials." We will have a role play area based around "The Three Bears' Cottage" which will into "Great Grandma's Cottage Museum" for our last before half term. Writing opportunities include notes from Goldilocks, Bears' telephone and message instructions for mending a chair and later, captions tickets for our Play Museum.



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For RE and Personal, Social and Emotional focus we will be looking at the unit "What does it mean to be me?" about our relationships with people. We will look at Bible stories and find out the values needed to build good relationships. Also we will explore the Easter Story later in the term. This will help with the Early Years Programme and the Early Learning Goals; Making Relationships and Self Confidence and Awareness.

For Design and Technology we will be making our own home models out of card and other junk materials. In our Exploring the Use of Media and Materials we are looking at mixing colours, painting and drawing homes and people and using different textures for collage work. In Music we are learning about how to record and read some symbols as well as make some music of our own.



In History we are looking at 'Homes in the Past' and how they have changed. We will have a visitor to help us explore castles in the first half term with a possible visit to Windsor castle in the second half of term. In Science we are discovering materials around us and their uses and then looking at in our environment. For Foundation Stage in 'Understanding World' we are exploring the place in which we live and the of homes other people we know used to live in. We will be learning about what houses are made from and looking at story of the Three Little Pigs and what happened to their houses. We will make our own house models out of card and other junk materials.



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Spring Term 2015

Science	Sorting and using materials Plants (naming/ identifying/describing)
ICT	Using a Word Bank Labelling and classifying

History (1 st Half)	What were homes like a long time ago? Links to our environment, sustainable housing.
Geography (2 nd Half)	Comparing Kirongo with our local area
Art (2 nd half)	Investigating Materials(weaving)
D&T (1 st half)	Homes
Music	What's the score?
PE	Dance and Games
RE	What does it mean to be me? Easter Story and related activities
P.H.S.E./ P.S.E.	Good to be me Getting on and falling out

Literacy

Writing:

Writing our full names with correct letter formation. We will be writing simple sentences independently, listening to the sounds in the words we want to write, finding words we know in a word bank or on the wall and putting a space between each word. We will be experimenting with using full stops and capital letters for our simple sentences. We will work on spaces between words too.

Year 1 need to use es and s on plurals and "ed" and "ing" and "er" word endings. They need to spell the words correctly in their writing, that they learn in phonics. They will learn how to use adjectives, conjunctions and question marks to improve their narratives and non fiction writing.



Texts will include:

- ~ simple dictionaries.
- ~fairy stories, plays,
- ~ some information texts
- ~ traditional stories and rhymes

Phonics Programme Letters and Sounds:

Year R are learning and consolidating initial letter sounds and three letter words to blend together e.g log, man, as well as letter strings flag, spin, string and vowel diagraphs such as ee ai igh oa oo.

Year 1 will be consolidating these sounds and adding words with ay ou ie ea oy ir ue oi oy ir ew oe au and split diagraphs a-e o-e in words like "cake" "rose." Thank you for your help with spelling. It is **vital** for your child's progress! We are focusing on spelling and grammar and being able to check and correct mistakes in our writing. We want to really listen out for those correct sounds in words and getting them down correctly. 😊

Aa Bb Cc

Reading: The more practice your child gets to read, the better! Lots of praise and encouragement, pointing to each word, recounting the story, learning words by sight, with the matching games sent home, will all be very beneficial. When Parents read regularly with their children, the difference is obvious. Make it part of your daily routine, little and often. Can they predict what's coming next? Retell the story? Pick out a word they read on the previous page? Remember repetition? Relate the story to their own experience? Stop at the fullstops and read with expression? Use the punctuation?



Numeracy

Counting, properties of numbers and number sequences.

Place value and ordering.

Understanding - and + using words like plus, add, total, take away, subtract, left, equals and less and more.

Begin to relate subtraction to counting backwards and using vocabulary like "less than", "fewer than" and "the difference between" correctly.

Say the number that is 1 or 10 more or less than a number to 20.

Understand the operations of addition and subtraction and related vocabulary.

Working on "sharing out" and odd and even numbers.

Money and real life problems. Compare two, then more masses using direct comparison. How many bricks do each weigh? Measure mass using uniform non standard units eg pigs, bricks, beads, etc.. and 10 gram plastic weights, count in tens. Learning names of 2D and 3D shapes and describing their attributes.

Year 1 will also begin to do the above with numbers up to a hundred. They will work out word problems and be working on 2x 5x 10x tables and using them in problem solving activities. They will be looking at division and multiplication in arrays.

P.E. lessons are on **Monday** and **Friday** afternoons this term. Please could you ensure the children have their kits in school for these days? It is easiest to bring them in on Monday and then they are in for the rest of the week (or even half term). **PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!**

Homework: Spellings will be given out to your child on **Mondays** with a test marked and put into bags from the previous week. Please try to remember to make sure the spelling home work is done and spelling books are back in their bags on Monday. **Year 1** will be given Maths homework to do at home each week and marked on Mondays. Year R children will be given a pack of maths games and activities to dip into at home over the term. Your child will have a Guided Reading session each week and the teacher will write in their Home Reader books as long as the books are in the bags. On a Tuesday or Wednesday each week we will change your child's books for his/her home reader, putting in four or five new books for you. If you would like more, please feel free to come in and change them again in the week, one day after school. "Show and Tell" lists are themed and will be sent home half termly. This happens on **Wednesdays** to develop speaking and listening. Links between home and school and enhance our topic work. Our **Bug Books** for Year 1 with work sheet activities will be changed fortnightly on a **Tuesday**.

Can you help?

- If you haven't helped before and would like to get CRB checked, please let the office know.
- If you are CRB checked and can help with reading or some cooking, please let Miss Greathead or Mrs Thomson know.
- We will be making porridge in the classroom in connection with our Goldilocks Role play area.
- We will be making cheese and salad sandwiches as part of P.S.E. Self Care Hygiene at home
- **Also a reminder especially to parents of Reception children.** Please make sure your child has warm clothes when it gets colder e.g. scarf, hat, gloves or mittens, as we do work outside the classroom for part of each day.
- **Please could your child bring a shoe box in to make a model home** and any catalogues with pictures of furniture in would be useful as well as small lids or little boxes including match boxes (empty of course)
- Your child may like to bring their own thick whiteboard pen in to use at school. Please name this.

Thank you for your support and help!

Miss Greathead

Class 1

