



## **Asfordby Hill Primary School**

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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Welcome back! ☺

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are feeling both suitably refreshed and excited for what 2018 has to bring.

### **Topic and Core Subjects**

The topic for our Spring Term will be 'The Great Fire of London'. I am really looking forward to teaching this to the children as there are numerous exciting learning opportunities to be had by all.

Throughout the term, we will be looking at the significance of the fire and weighing up the positive and negative effects it had on the city of London. The children will also be comparing and contrasting 17<sup>th</sup> century London to the city and the way of life we know today. Furthermore, through using drama and various artefacts and contemporary sources, we will be looking at where and why the fire happened. There are also many writing opportunities to be had within this topic: newspaper recounts, diary entries (with a focus on the famous contemporary diarist, Samuel Pepys) as well as detailed fact files about the event. Many will be pleased to know that there are also a plethora of art activities linked to the Great Fire that the children will undertake with both Mrs Bailey and Mrs Edwards. This will range from designing and creating models of 17<sup>th</sup> century London homes as well as making landscapes drawings of the city ablaze using a range of methods and materials. In English, aside from the Great Fire, we will be focusing mainly on non-fiction during the start of the spring term. We will be writing non-chronological reports, initially about dragons and mythical creatures, but we will then be transferring our learning to different topics across the curriculum to determine our fluency in skill application. This term, our main areas of focus in English will be the use of coordinating (and, but, or, so etc.) and subordinating conjunctions (when, if, because, as etc.) as well as getting to grips with the apostrophe (for both possession and omission). Alongside this, we will be looking closely at the editing process; looking specifically at ensuring that our sentences are formed correctly and are not excessively long and unpunctuated.

In maths, we will be continuing to aid children's fluency of calculation using the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We will be looking at different methods and assessing the 'efficiency' of them. This is done to help aid children's 'Number Sense'. If the children are able to gain fluency, they should also be able to use their knowledge to reason and make deductions about numbers and sequences as well as solving increasingly difficult problems. In maths, each topic is broken down into small steps (always including fluency, reasoning and problem solving) and interventions take place if a child finds a step tricky. We do this to avoid there being significant gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. This is also why school attendance is incredibly important as missing only one step in the process can have a *significant* impact on longer term progress.



### **Reading**

I have been so pleased with many of the children's progress in fluency of reading so far this year. Long may this continue! However, for this to be the case, children need to be reading their school book (alongside other books of their choosing) regularly at home and preferably to an adult or older sibling. I would also like to see a huge weekly increase in the books brought in for changing in school. Just to note, in order for their books to be changed, a parent/adult's signature is required inside the reading record.

If you would like a bookmark with question prompts linked to your child's reading book level, please ask as we will happily provide you with one.

### **Other Information**

In addition, the children will be learning about the features and characteristics (location, capital cities ...) of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. We will also be using Atlases and Google Earth to identify the 7 continents of the world. In order to aid the development of children's social and emotional wellbeing, Holly class will be exploring the meaning and value of 'Self Control'. We will use role play, drama as well as social stories to help children see the long term benefits of patience and perseverance.

PE will continue to be taught on a Tuesday and a Friday but this may change if the weather forecast is poor so it would be of great benefit if kits were kept in school at all times. It can be very cold throughout these winter months so children will need a jumper/ warm clothing to be packed. Also, for children's safety, suitable trainers should be worn. Pumps, for example, do not protect the heel and therefore can increase the risk of injury.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing what fantastic progress the children will continue to make throughout this term. I hope you are all too ☺

Kind regards

Miss. L. Parrott