

Asfordby Hill Primary School

Achieving High Standards in all that we do.

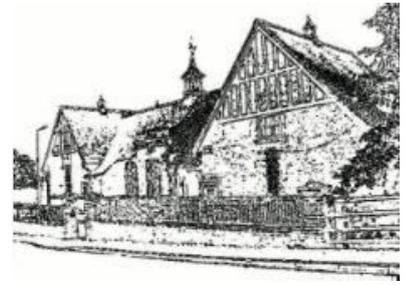
Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,

Leics. LE14 3RB

☎ 01664 812244

Email: admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk

Website: www.asfordbyhillprimary.leics.sch.uk



Head teacher: Mrs P Millward
Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I also hope the children are well-rested and ready to tackle a new term of learning.

We will be beginning the spring term with a topic called 'The Americas – a Great American Road Trip'. This topic will consolidate learning from Year 5 where the children studied the Amazon Rainforest and will develop their knowledge and understanding of key geographical terms such as longitude, latitude, equator, The Northern and The Southern Hemisphere. Within this topic, the children will be exploring the contrasting geographical features (climate, location and landscape) of both Northern and Southern America. We will be looking at sections of 'Simon Reeves' – *The Americas* (BBC) alongside our learning to provide context. Finally, the children will choose an area in America (be in north or south) and create a tour guide. Within this, they will juxtapose their chosen region with our local area and critically analyse any similarities and differences. Within our road trip topic, the children will be designing and making a suitable moving vehicle in Design and Technology. This links explicitly to their learning in Science this term (Electricity) as they will be creating a simple circuit using batteries and motors as well as designing a rigid frame incorporating axels and pulleys.

In the second half term, our focus will be on the Second World War. We will be looking at how it all began, its effects on life at home and abroad (particularly how the European map changed) and the legacy it left behind. The children will look back at their understanding of war and conflict in the past and assess how warfare had changed by 1945. A great deal of our English curriculum will also be connected to this time in history. As a class, we will be reading Goodnight Mr Tom and excerpts from Anne Frank's Diary and will be writing in the style of those particular authors. Last year, Anne Frank's diary inspired the Year 6 cohort to produce some absolutely outstanding writing. The fact that she was an ordinary girl (she wrote her diary when at a similar age to our children) in an extraordinary situation really resonated with the children. I hope to replicate this again this year.

Our focus this term will be on consolidation of learning; guiding the children to use and apply, with increasing accuracy and creativity, a variety of language and grammatical features. Finally, throughout the year, I have been working on building children's vocabulary using a metacognitive approach. With regular repetition in varying contexts, the children are beginning to draw upon a widened bank of vocabulary in both their spoken conversations and their writing. Words are incredibly powerful – the more we know, the more challenging topics and texts we can access. This term, we will be looking at a variety of words: *conflict, empire, invasion, prejudice, discrimination, persecution, tyranny, dictatorship ... hope and courage*. This links beautifully to the children's understanding of British Values – how people have suffered and shown courage and bravery in the face of tyranny to give us the world we have today. We will discuss how the events of WWII have shaped British Values today:

- **Democracy**



- **The Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect** for and **Tolerance** of those with different faiths and beliefs

Each week, I will be teaching an explicit grammar lesson to support the children with the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test (GPS). This was an area in the curriculum that the children found particularly tricky last term due to the challenging nature of the grammar curriculum. The children will be creating grammar scrapbooks which will act as revision aids. We will revise a skill – e.g. pronouns (possessive and relative) – apply it in context through writing and then look at past SATs questions to help them get used to the format of assessment questions. Again, with regular repetition and plenty of practise, the GPS test will become easier over time. There are plenty of books, websites and apps linked to spelling and grammar that would be useful to use to support your child's learning at home.

This term, we will be focussing quite heavily on the children's mathematical skills.. We will work on developing their abilities to independently understand the process of multi-step problems and to apply sound calculation skills to them. Each week, we will undertake a purely arithmetic-based session as well as problem solving lesson to improve their levels of confidence, speed and efficiency. Maths is taught metacognitively – when children are introduced to a problem, I want them to ask themselves the following questions: *when have I seen a question like this before? What knowledge do I need to have and therefore use to solve this problem? Which methods can I use to solve this problem? Which method is therefore the best?* Metacognition is heavily based around self-evaluation and critical analysis. Initially, children find problem solving difficult. However, over time they build up a sound bank of knowledge that they can draw upon and apply successfully.

It will be of great benefit to your child that you keep their skills fresh by working on their maths at home. Day to day living provides ample opportunities to apply maths in real life contexts: *the time is 7:07pm. I put the dinner in the oven 45 minutes go. What time did I put it in? I need 8 packs of beans costing 43p each. How much will I spent altogether? I have spent $\frac{3}{4}$ of my money. I have £2.60 left. How much money did I begin with?* It takes a little time but will be of great benefit to them.

In Science, the children will be investigating electricity and light. This will develop and extend their knowledge of electricity from when they were first introduced to it in Year 2. We will be looking at how light travels and how we are able to see as well as learning about reflections and refraction. Finally, we will be looking at the working of periscopes which links nicely to our WWII topic.

With regards to homework, please see this term's LEARNING FROM HOME booklet.

In addition, please ensure your child brings in their PE kit on a Monday and it stays in school throughout the week. There will be a timetabled session on a Friday afternoon that will probably be outside (even in the rain) and an indoor OR outdoor lesson at an unscheduled time. Appropriate kit must be worn. Our PSHE and computing learning are linked to healthy lifestyles; the children have begun researching and designing a healthy lifestyles app and will continue to develop it this term. Oak class will be exploring the different substances food contains and how we can control our nutrition alongside exercise to help create a healthy and active lifestyle. They will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own healthy lifestyle and make healthy decisions as well as considering how they would advise others sensitively.

Spring Term is a challenging one; it is jam-packed full of learning. If you need to chat to me about anything, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Miss Parrott