

Asfordby Hill Primary School

Achieving High Standards in all that we do.

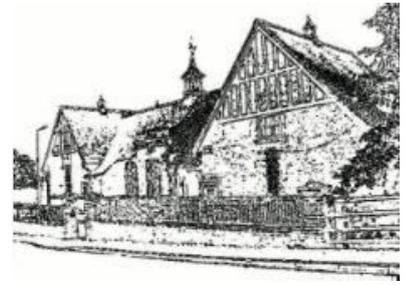
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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break. I am looking forward to another busy term.

To begin the term we will be focusing on our geography topic 'People and their communities'. We will be using several books, including 'Lila and the secret of rain' and 'Handa's Surprise' which will help the children to understand the human and physical geography of a Kenyan village and what the similarities and differences are compared to the children's own surroundings. The children will be using atlases and globes to locate Kenya and will learn the points on a compass.

As reading is an essential skill for all learning, we will be revisiting and retrieving last term's phonics, building upon previous learning: reading and spelling a wide range of words, exploring meanings and broadening the children's vocabulary. We will be having an open morning on 24th January, inviting you to see phonics and reading in action.

In writing, the children will be using their phonic knowledge, spelling abilities and sentence structures in a range of genres. We will be starting with instruction writing using the books 'Don't let the pigeon stay up' and 'Don't let the pigeon drive the bus' by Mo Willems. Again, we will be revisiting past learning and further developing our cursive handwriting formations.

In maths, we will continue to build on from last term, working on addition and subtraction, height and weight, place value, length and volume. In maths, as with all learning, it is important to revisit and practise with the intention of storing information and skills into the long term memory. Retrieving this information needs constant practice!

In science we will be learning about seasonal changes across the four seasons and observing and describing weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies. Our second science topic is 'What's growing in our garden?'. We will be identifying and naming a variety of common plants, including garden plants, wild plants and trees. We will be identifying and describing the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. Our topic is supported by a selection of quality resources on loan from the Leicestershire Library Services.

Our history topic is 'Explorers'. We will be learning about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. The children will begin to understand chronology by making timelines. They will learn about the lives and achievements of significant individuals. This topic is also supported by a selection of quality resources on loan from the



Leicestershire Library Services. Children will be exploring and using vocabulary such as exploration, determination, courage and navigate.

In RE, we will be building on last term's learning, studying what makes some places sacred. The children will identify special objects and symbols found in places of worship. They will talk about the way that stories, objects, symbols and actions used in churches and mosques show what people believe in and describe ways in which people use music in worship. Hopefully, the children will be able to learn by visiting a place of worship.

In PE, the children will be taking part in cross country sessions, building on their ball control skills and in dance sessions they will further develop skills in copying and exploring basic movements and body patterns, remembering simple movements and dance steps. They will link movements to sounds and music and respond to a range of stimuli. The children will use their creative skills when they showcase their class assembly on Tuesday 11th February.

In music we will be listening and appraising, playing instruments, improvising and playing by ear, which will be put into practise as part of our class assembly. We will compose the music to traditional African beats. We will be learning the words to a Kenyan welcoming song which the children will be singing in Swahili.

In PSHE, the children will be developing relationships with each other, understanding that they are part of a wider unit - Willow class. They will listen to other people and share their ideas. They will work collectively to plan and organise their class assembly. They will agree on the rules that they will put into place to secure an effective learning environment. Our rainbow skills will be used to help them cope in a new situation, for example, perseverance when learning a new song and dance, optimism, in that the assembly will be a success. British values are in action as democracy comes into play as the children have a voice in deciding what role they would like to take during the assembly. Voting on classroom matters is common place when suggestions are put forward. For example, favourite piece of music to dance to or favourite wake-up shake-up videos to play. The children have recently voted on their favourite PE activity, soon to be an extra-curricula option.

We will be using different features to make a video and to capture moving images as part of our computing work. This will be linked to our growing plants topic. We will be storing sounds and images on the ipads when we collaboratively work together to produce a talking book as part of our English work this term.

As you can see, our term is filled with lots of new learning and many new challenges for the children.

As always, if you can spare some time to come in and support us, you will be made most welcome. Maybe you have an interest in a subject area or maybe you would like to share a reading book with a child. If you would like to offer your support, please call in to discuss your interest.

Should you have any worries or concerns about your child during the term, please arrange to call in and discuss it with me.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs. Kettel