

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE14 3RB

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Email: admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk Website: <u>www.asfordbyhillprimary.leics.sch.uk</u>

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



Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer and that the children are excited to get back into the swing of things. Hopefully the children are recharged and ready for the exciting year ahead in Year 3 (Rowan Class). Alongside myself, Miss Yarwood, Mrs Goodsell and Mrs Heald will be available to support the children throughout the week. I also ask that you refer to Mrs Millward's letter, which details the structure of the school day, health and safety measures and COVID-19 procedures.

I wanted to briefly outline three key themes/concepts that will thread through the year ahead:

Metacognition, Self-Regulation and Independence-ensuring the children continue to develop the skills for learning. These include planning, identifying how to solve problems, organisation, self-evaluation, analysis, adjusting and more. We will be teaching projects that explore positive models of human personal development, resilience, character, adapting to challenges and achievement, along with letting the children know about and have a say in the route their learning is taking them on. This will help to keep them motivated give them have and

the route their learning is taking them on. This will help to keep them motivated, give them hope, and provide a sense of purpose. It will also empower the children with subject knowledge and highlight the learning approaches that are useful for specific subjects.

Wellbeing: Taking Responsibility - Now the children are entering key stage 2, and they begin to mature, it is increasingly important that they learn how to start taking responsibility for their physical and mental wellbeing. We will explore how different responses to situations lead to different outcomes, including how our actions impact our own feelings and the feelings of others; what positive relationships look like; goal setting; resilience; and embracing failure. This will link to our whole-school rainbow skills.



A curriculum that engages and inspires- Promoting curiosity, deep focus, innovation and self-expression. These are not just valuable for academic development – they are important for personal growth and fulfilment. As a school we will be prioritising a love of, and the skills involved in, reading – it is an essential tool for accessing a wide curriculum. I will be placing great emphasis on fluency in reading and mental calculation in maths throughout this first

term; I will post more information about this via Seesaw in the first week. In short, research suggests that fluent readers and children, who are fluent in mental calculation, are able to free up space in their working memory to engage in more complex processes, like comprehension, mathematical reasoning and problem solving.













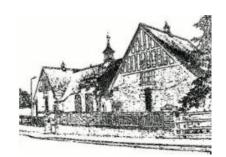


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Rowan's Curriculum

In English this term, we will be focusing initially on exploring and picking apart the narrative language, structures and morals within fables, including the classics, 'The Hare and Tortoise' and 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf', but also a modern representation inspired by Naomi Howarth, 'A Crow's Tale'. As a class, we will develop children's writing through language-rich quality model text, to create well-structured sentences before children engage in an independent writing task. Later in the term, we will be exploring calligrams in poetry, exploring novels on a specific theme, which in year 3 will be the Stone Age and writing explanation texts about what's beneath our feet!

Reading will underpin the curriculum in Rowan; I was incredibly delighted to see on our transition days how much of a positive attitude the children have towards reading and I am excited to continue to nurture this. Reading for pleasure is something I am incredibly passionate about and I have some fantastic books that I cannot wait to share with the children and have dedicated a slot within the timetable to allow opportunities for this to happen, as well as having a shared class story at the end of each day. Initially this will be The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. The children are more than welcome to bring their own copies into school to follow along but please make sure they have their names inside their copy.

Spelling will be taught daily with strong phonemic foundations, whilst also giving children the opportunity to identify links with root words, prefixes and suffixes (phase 6). They will be building upon their Key Stage One learning, whilst incorporating longer, more challenging spellings from the year 3/4 spelling list (these are attached). Spelling lists will be posted on Seesaw on Mondays. Spellings will be tested on a Friday. I am confident that this approach will have a positive impact on the children's spelling.

The children's reading comprehension skills taught in Year 2 will be revisited and then built upon. Enriching vocabulary knowledge will be a focus, as will being able to ask and answer questions more appropriately and using evidence from the text to justify predictions. Reading is a great way for children to be immersed in vocabulary, which is invaluable to a child's general development. Ten minutes a day devoted to reading at home can have a large impact on all areas of the curriculum. Please do all you can to ensure your child is having their 10 minutes a day.

In maths, we will initially be focusing on place value; equipping children with confidence when manipulating numbers up to one thousand. With these numbers, they will be able to read, compare and order them as well as be able to make estimations by rounding them to different amounts. Competency in place value is of key importance for future progress in maths. Without a sound knowledge of what numbers represent, other aspects of the maths curriculum may become more difficult. After this, we will be spending some time focusing on Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Within this, we will be continuing with our mastery approach to learning: once a child has shown that they are proficient in the skill and can apply it (fluency), we can go deeper by manipulating this skill when solving complex problems. I want all children to develop good 'Number Sense' – the ability to be flexible and efficient with













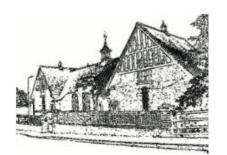


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numbers. They will understand both how our number system works, and how numbers relate to each other. Together, we will work to achieve this goal.

Throughout the year, Rowan class will be learning contextually through several topics, beginning in the Autumn term with:

Movement and Feeding

We will explore a lot in this exciting topic, like: 'What happens to our food in our bodies?', 'How do our bodies work?' and 'What we need to put into our bodies to keep us healthy?'. This will thread into our reading lessons where we will be looking at how the work of scientists help use to keep healthy and safe.

If you go down to the woods today?

The children will continue to build on their knowledge of their local area by thinking like geographers. We will engage in a geographical enquiry to answer the questions 'How is the land around Asfordby Hill used?' before conducting fieldwork to investigate 'What services are available locally?' The children will go on to use this information to design their own village or town.

Stone Age to Iron Age

We will begin by exploring what historians have been able to deduce about where and when the Stone Age Period appeared in our British history by interpreting various sources. Once we have gained knowledge of this period in history, we will look at how this period developed into the Iron Age, asking 'How much did the Iron Age achieve?'

Subject	Autumn 1st half term	Autumn 2 nd half term
Science	Movement and Feeding	Forces and Magnets
Geography	If You Go Down To The Woods	
	Today	
History		Stone Age to Iron Age
PE	Invasion Games Skills	Tennis
French	Bonjour! - Basic Social Conventions	
RE	What do different people believe about God?	
Computing	Email	Journey Inside a Computer
Art		Cave Art
DT	Building a shelter to with stand v	vea
	conditions	
Music	Recorders	
	Singing + Performing	
PSHE	Balanced healthy lifestyle	Managing Risk













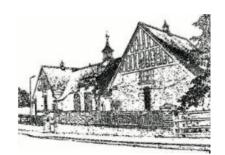


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PE will be taught weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays. Hence, on both these days the children should come to school in their PE kits.

<u>Seesaw -</u> we will be continuing to use seesaw to support and build on the children's learning and celebrate achievements. You will be able to comment and support your child's progress through this media. I'll send out more information via Seesaw next week.

At AHS, we pride ourselves on our abilities to celebrate differences and promote diversity and equality. Children's citizenship awards will be once again will be linked to our school motto: 'When Lightning Strikes, Look for the Rainbow'. Throughout the year, children will be given the opportunity – both at home and within school – to showcase one of the seven rainbow skills in order to achieve their Rainbow Certificate. This will be a true badge of honour as those who gain it will showcase their ability to be well-rounded citizens equipped and ready for the modern world.

I am confident that together we can work hard, achieve great things and have fun!

Kind regards,

Mrs Bailey











