

Asfordby Hill Primary School

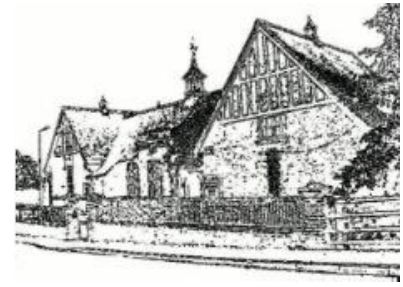
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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward

Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and the children are well-rested and ready to come back to school for their final year at primary school. I am looking forward to welcoming them all back into Oak class and will do all I can to keep them safe, happy and enthused to learn. Please refer to Mrs Millward's letter for more details regarding the structure of the school day, health and safety measures and Covid-19 procedures.

Underneath I will outline what our focus areas for the autumn term will be to ensure the children are both intellectually stimulated and where their physical and mental wellbeing are prioritised:

- A) **Wellbeing: Looking Forward**: This topic focusses on building and maintaining connections with others and explores friendship, conflict, compromise, and resolution. We will also build the children's awareness of social media and its distorted view on reality. In addition, the children will explore what makes them happy; what actions and/or events may trigger certain emotions (and how we can respond to this); as well as building resilience through an understanding of the growth mindset.
- B) **Metacognition and Retrieval Practice**: as mentioned above, we will be working to support children's memory and their ability to recall information. As the year progresses, the children will gain a better understanding of themselves as learners and what strategies and scenarios enable them to better remember information and recall it quickly and efficiently. The key to building a bigger memory (just like gaining bigger muscles!) is regular, systematic and repetitious work. However, repeating past learning does not have to be boring; I will be doing it a variety of ways and contexts which should enable our Year 6s to gain both larger working (short-term) and long-term memories.
- C) **A focus on Reading**:
'The more that you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'
Dr Suess.

Reading is much more than just comprehension. It is through reading that the children of Oak class will learn about a wide array of topic and curriculum areas and be exposed to rich vocabulary. It is through exploring different worlds within reading that we can support children with their essential reading skills: fluency, skimming and scanning, summarising, inference, and application of vocabulary within context. We will be applying our reading skills to texts about our local area; to books such as 'The Murderers Ape' by Jakob Wegelius and Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'The Secret Garden'; and to information texts about



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Natural Selection and Selective Breeding which link to our Science topic. Through reading, I am to broaden our children’s horizons and expose them to culture and ideas that enable them to understand the lives of others in contrast to their own. When done well, the teaching of reading is incredibly powerful in empowering young minds.

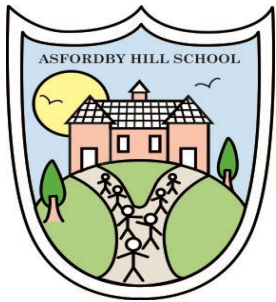
Curriculum Information

Our first topic will be ‘Evolution and Inheritance’. Within it, we will be looking into Charles Darwin’s theory of Natural Selection and Survival of the Fittest. We will explore the notion of inheritance with regards to a variety of organisms, as well as ourselves, and investigate the basic structure of DNA. Within this topic, there are many opportunities for the children to develop their debating skills. We will look at some topics that have caused controversy, such as fox hunting and the breeding of broiler chickens and look in depth at the reasons for and against their operation. As Melton Mowbray is a very rural area, this fits in well with our local environment and its history. Geographically, we will be exploring what life is like in a market town such as ours and examining how influential tourism is within the local economy. We will also look at sources of employment within the local area and juxtaposing it with more urban environments. In addition, the children will be applying the principles of Pointillism to create nature-themed art work as well as using and then evaluating their abilities to use a variety of different artistic techniques to create different effects. Finally, we will be exploring evolution through the narrative poem ‘The Molliebird’ and then creating our own stories using the principles of Natural Selection.

In English this term, we will initially be focusing on developing the children’s creative flair in narrative writing and revising key concepts from previous learning . We will be enhancing their use of ambitious vocabulary as well as being able to create cohesion within and across paragraphs. As a school, we help to develop children’s writing through exploring quality models and texts. Through analysis of sentence grammar and structure, we can then create quality sentences that are cohesive and contain sophisticated levels of language. These sentences will be slowly crafted, with great levels of care and attention, and will come together to create a whole text. The skills that they learn throughout this process should enable them to recreate a text, of similar high-quality, completely independently. As mentioned, reading is a great way for children to be immersed in vocabulary and to explore expertly crafted sentences. Ten minutes a day devoted to reading at home can have a large impact on their writing abilities.

In maths, we will initially be focusing on place value; equipping children with confidence when manipulating numbers up to ten million as well as with numbers up to 3 decimal places. We will be taking our time with this topic as it is the backbone to all future maths learning. With these numbers, they will be able to read, compare and order them as well as being 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 curriculum may become more difficult. After this, we will be spending a good bit of time focusing on the four number operations. ‘Mental Fluency’ is an area of focus within our maths curriculum: the ability to ‘play’ and be flexible with number and apply different strategies to various calculations. Being analytical and evaluative about approaches to calculation (reasoning) is imperative to success with mental fluency. Initially, children may find this difficult, but they will make quick progress and reap the benefits by the end of the academic year.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
<u>Geography</u>	Our Town – Melton Mowbray	
<u>History</u>		Civil Rights
<u>RE</u>	What do religions do and say when times get hard? (a	



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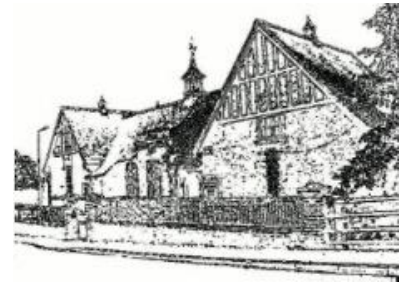
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	focus on humanism and Christianity)	
<u>Science</u>	Evolution and Inheritance	Our Bodies
<u>Computing</u>	An introduction to Python Programming	Big data: QR codes, barcodes and RFID.
<u>PE</u>	Tennis and Hockey	Rugby and netball
<u>PSHE</u>	Wonderful Me: wellbeing, conflict management, resilience and growth/fixed mindsets.	Healthy Lifestyles
<u>Art</u>		Portraits: observational drawing, colour mixing, creating tone with brush strokes.
<u>Music</u>	The children will be studying a Charanga unit called "Happy" and developing their singing, composing and improvising skills. The class will also be taught to play a musical instrument throughout the year (watch this space with regards to what the musical instrument will be!)	

Throughout the year, Oak class will be getting to grips with what it means to be British and our associated values. The core values that we will be exploring are *democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance* for those of differing faiths. We will be looking closely at what each one of these statements means and how it applies to the children and their lives. We will also be comparing how modern governments have stemmed from ideas and actions initially formed by ancient civilisations and past customs.

For homework this year, I will be setting tasks on Seesaw. Tasks can be uploaded onto the platform as opposed to printing them out and feedback will be given from either myself or Mrs Caldwell. Homework will be set on a Monday to be completed the by the following Monday. Tasks may differ slightly: sometimes they may be mathematically focussed, or they may be a reading or writing task linked to our topic. All the children will have home access to **Spelling Shed** – a fantastic online resource which I know you have used before. Their weekly list will be added as an assignment on the website itself and on Seesaw (I will not be printing out paper copies) and the children can learn the words through games and activities. The list is loaded on a Monday to be tested on the following Monday.



Healthy School

PE will be taught weekly on a **Tuesday and Friday**. Like last year, *the children must come into school in their PE kits* and they will not be getting changed at school.

At AHS, we pride ourselves on our abilities to celebrate differences and promote diversity and equality. Children's citizenship awards will once again 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 to finally 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.

All I ask from the children is that they work hard and persevere when things get tricky. This year will be filled with challenges, but I have no doubt in my mind that they can and will achieve great things.

I look forward to working with you all.

Miss Parrott