



Asfordby Hill Primary School

Achieving High Standards in all that we do.

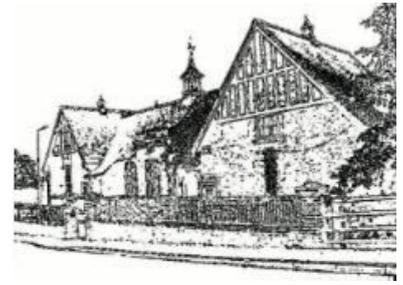
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Head teacher: Mrs P Millward
Chair of Governors: Jenifer Smith

Dear Parents,

We 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. We are looking forward to welcoming them all back into Oak class.

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

A) Wellbeing: Looking Forward: This topic focuses on building and maintaining connections with others and explores friendships, 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 understanding of the growth mind-set.

B) Metacognition and Retrieval Practice: Building upon previous years' learning and strategies, we will be continuing to work to support children's memory and their ability to recall information. As the year progresses, children will gain a better understanding of themselves as learners and what strategies and scenarios enable them to better remember information and recall quickly and effectively. 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, we will be doing this in a variety of ways and contexts which will enable our Year 6s to gain 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 range of topics 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 evolution and the local area; to books such as 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin, 'The Murderers Ape' by Jakob Wegelius and Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'The Secret Garden'; and to information texts about Natural Selection and Selective Breeding which links to our science topic. Through reading, we will broaden our children's horizons and expose them to cultures and ideas that enable them to understand the lives of others in contrast to their own.

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 evolution of finches’ beaks! 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 reasons for and against their operations. 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 with the local area and juxtaposing it with more urban environments. In addition, the children will be applying the principles of design to evaluate our local amenities and how to improve them. Finally, we will be exploring evolution through the narrative poem ‘The Molliebird’ and then creating our own narratives linked to 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 level of care and attention, and will come together to create a whole text. The skills that they learn through this process should enable them to recreate text, of similar high quality, completely independently. As mentioned, reading is a fantastic 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 significant 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 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 curriculum may become more difficult. After this, we will be spending a good amount of time focusing on the four number operations, whilst, with Mrs Millward, the children will be focusing on the geometry aspects of the mathematics curriculum. ‘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 calculations (reasoning) is imperative to success with mental fluency. Initially, the 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
Science	Evolution and Inheritance	Living Things and their Habitats
Geography	Our Market Town-Melton Mowbray	
History		Civil Rights
Computing	An introduction to Python Programming	Big Data: QR codes, barcodes and RFID
PE	Cross country Football Athletics	
PSHE	Wonderful Me	Healthy Living
DT	Construction Project: The School’s New Kitchen	
Art		Drawing and digital media: Pop-Art
RE	What do Christians believe Jesus did to save them?	
Music	Building on ukulele, singing and listening skills	
French	Ou vas tu	



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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 government have stemmed from ideas and actions initially formed by ancient civilisations and past customs.

Structure of the Week

This year the Oak team consists of Mrs Bailey, Mrs Millward, Mrs Heald, Mrs Newell, Miss Warner and Mr Forrester.

Mrs Bailey will be teaching every morning and Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Mrs Millward will be teaching Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

Mrs Heald and Mr Forrester will be teaching Friday afternoons.

Autumn term

Reminders	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45	Maths morning work/ register				
9:00	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
9:45-10:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
10:30-10:45	Assembly Interventions				
10:45-11:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00-12:00	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing/spellings	Writing
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-1:25	Spellings	Spellings	Spellings/ Handwriting	Grammar	Spelling
1:25-2:15	Geography/history	Science	Maths	RE/French	PSHE
2:15-3:05	Design Technology/Art	Computing	PE	PE	Music
3:05-3:15	Story	Story	Story	Story	Story

PE will be taught weekly on a

Wednesday and Thursday, unless otherwise stated on Seesaw. Like last year, *the children must come into school in their PE kits* and they will not be getting changed at school.



Homework will be set on Seesaw. Completed tasks can be uploaded onto the platform as opposed to printing them out and feedback will be given by either ourselves or Mrs Heald. Homework will be set on **Monday** to be completed by the following **Monday**. Tasks may differ slightly; sometimes they may be mathematically focussed, or they may be reading or writing tasks linked to our topics.

Spellings all the children will have 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 site and on Seesaw (we will not be printing paper copies) and the children can learn the words through games and activities. The list will be uploaded on Fridays to be tested on the following Friday.

Music -like last year, music will be taught on a **Friday** afternoon by Mr Forrester. Please remember to bring your Ukuleles in on the day.

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 highlight their ability to be well-rounded citizens equipped and ready for the modern world. Closer to half term, there will be an opportunity for the children to apply these skills within school when hosting a Macmillan's Coffee Morning. more information to follow.

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

We look forward to working with you all.

Mrs Bailey and Mrs Millward