

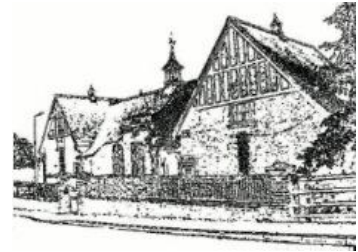
Asfordby Hill Primary School

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire LE14 3RB

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www.asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs. P. Millward

Chair of Governors: Mrs. J. 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 and we will do all that we can to keep them safe, happy and enthused to learn. The children in Oak class will be taught by two teachers this year: Miss Parrott [who will be in the classroom from Monday – Wednesday] and Mrs Bailey [who will be with the children from Wednesday afternoon – Friday]. Our team will also be supported by the wonderful Mrs Heald and Miss Warner. Our aim is to pull together our teaching expertise and experience to give the children the best possible year of education.

Underneath is an outline of our focus areas for the autumn term. Our aim is to ensure that the children are both intellectually stimulated and their physical and mental wellbeing is prioritised:

A) **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; we 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.

B) **A focus on Reading:**

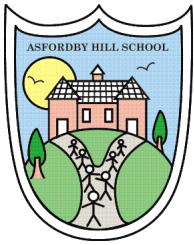
'The more that you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'

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. During the autumn term, Miss Parrott will be introducing **whole class reading sessions** where all children read and work on the same text. This is in line with current research into the most effective approaches to teaching reading in primary schools. It is used incredibly successfully in many other schools. This approach will require children to read chapters at home to access the learning for the next day. More information about this approach will be given at the start of term.

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 selective breeding of



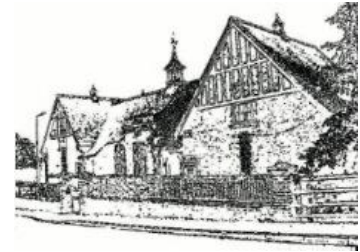
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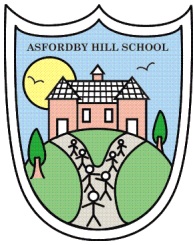
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certain animals such as broiler chickens. As Melton Mowbray is a very rural area, this fits in well with our local environment and its history. Geographically, we will be exploring what life is like in a market town such as ours and examining the concepts of tourism and the economy in relation to our local area. We will also look at sources of employment within our locality and juxtaposing it with more urban environments. Towards half-term, there will be a class trip into Melton to apply fieldwork skills to what the children have learnt back in the classroom.

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. Miss Parrott will begin the year by teaching narrative using Aaron Becker's *Journey* as a stimulus and Mrs Bailey will consolidate the children's grammar. 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.

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.



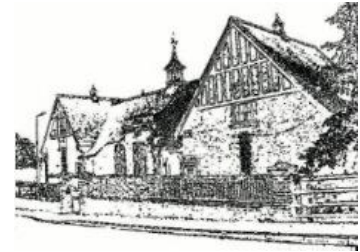
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	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
<u>Geography</u>	Our Town – Melton Mowbray	
<u>History</u>		Civil Rights
<u>RE</u>	What do religions do and say when times get hard? (a focus on humanism and Christianity)	
<u>Science</u>	Evolution and Inheritance	Our Bodies
<u>Computing</u>	An introduction to Python Programming	Big data: QR codes, barcodes and RFID.
<u>French</u>	Ou vas tu?	
<u>PE</u>	Dance and Hockey	Rugby and netball
<u>PSHE</u>	Wonderful Me: wellbeing, conflict management, resilience and growth/fixed mindsets.	Healthy Lifestyles
<u>Art</u>		Portrait Pop Art
<u>DT</u>	Construction: A New Skatepark	
<u>Music</u>	The children will be developing their ukulele skills, listening to and appraising a variety of music and improving their singing technique.	

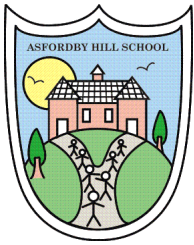
Throughout the year, Oak class will be getting to grips with what it means to be British and our associated values. The core values that we will be exploring are *democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance* for those of differing faiths. We will be looking closely 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.

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.

For homework this year, tasks will be set on Seesaw. Homework will be set on a Monday to be completed 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. As mentioned earlier, the children will also be expected to read short passages of texts at home to be completed for the next day as part of our reading curriculum.

All the children will have home access to **Spelling Shed** where their weekly list will be added as an assignment on the website itself and on Seesaw (We will





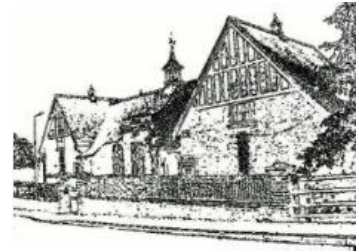
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not be printing out paper copies) and the children can learn the words through games and activities. The list is loaded on a Monday to be tested through the dictation of sentences) on the following Monday.

PE will be taught weekly on a **Tuesday and Wednesday**. Like last year, ***the children must come into school in their PE kits*** and they will not be getting changed at school. Please ensure children are wearing appropriate kit in the school colours on these days.

The final year of primary school will be full of challenges that will require perseverance and dedication. However, this year will be transformative and will support the children to become confident, happy and well-rounded young people ready for the next stage of their education. We cannot wait to begin!

Miss Parrott & Mrs Bailey