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THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

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**What's Happening In Year One this Half Term?**  
**(Half term commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010)**

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to see everyone back and well rested after the Spring Holidays. We hope you will find the following information useful as a guide to what will be happening in Year One over the next few weeks.

Literacy

In Literacy this half term we will be looking at a range of non-fiction texts. We will focus on the definition of new vocabulary and the children will produce appropriate lists and labels for cross-sections and other diagrams found in these non-fiction texts. They will also begin report writing on a given topic, such as 'fossils'. Grammar activities will involve work on compound words, adverbs and verbs. The children will continue to refine their handwriting skills. Please continue to read regularly with your child at home and to practice weekly spelling patterns for a few minutes each night. It would also be very beneficial to the children if patterns already covered this year were re-visited at home as this will help consolidate your child's spelling accuracy and confidence.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, the children will look at partitioning (breaking down numbers into tens and units), measuring capacity/volume using standard and non-standard units, solving money problems and exploring odd and even numbers. We have also begun work on basic multiplication involving the two, five and ten time's tables. This can be reinforced at home using groups of objects such as marbles or sweets.

Science

We begin a new topic this half term in science in which the children will be investigating 'Growing Plants'. The children will have the opportunity to grow their own plant from a range of seeds. They will also explore the best conditions for growing plants and keep a plant diary to help with their investigation. The topic will be consolidated and extended when we visit Kew Gardens on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May to take part in a 'Plants Growing Activity Tour and Workshop'.

### Geography

Our new geography topic will be 'The Seaside'. The children will learn about different seaside locations in the United Kingdom. They will carry out surveys and use maps to locate seaside resorts and label the relevant human and physical features to be found in seaside areas. Other activities will include designing a holiday poster and making comparisons of different seaside and oceanic locations.

### ICT

Our work this term will focus on 'Labelling and Classifying'. The children will be encouraged to sort and describe sets of objects according to their properties and to record this information using different programs. We will also continue to develop the children's mouse and keyboard skills, whilst encouraging them to use a greater range of icons independently.

### PSHE

In PSHE we will be examining the topic of 'Choices'. This will involve circle time discussions and short activities about areas such as recycling, healthy eating, cleanliness and hygiene, exercise and how to play nicely and safely.

### School Inspection

The Phoenix School is due to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in the coming months. ISI inspections operate on a short notice basis and the school will be given one week's notice of the start date. Once we have been informed of our date, we will be emailing parents a questionnaire from ISI. We would be extremely grateful if all parents complete this questionnaire as it is an opportunity to share your thoughts about our school.

***Date for the diary – Kew Gardens on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May to take part in a 'Plants Growing Activity Tour and Workshop'***

We are so pleased with the independence the children are showing in coming into their classroom by themselves and putting away their belongings. Children are also being very responsible when taking their belongings along with them to their morning clubs. Please remember you are very welcome to pop into class on Friday mornings to give your child opportunities to show you the lovely work they have been producing.

As always, please do not hesitate to come and see your child's Form Teacher should you have any queries or concerns.

We look forward to a productive and happy half term!

Kind regards,  
The Year One Teachers