



THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

What's Happening In Year One this Half Term? **(Half term commencing Thursday 19th April 2012)**

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to welcome you back after the spring holidays and hope you will find the following information useful as a guide to what will be happening in Year One this half term. As always, it promises to be busy and purposeful in the Nightingales and Hummingbirds!

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 adverbs and verbs. The children will continue to refine their handwriting skills and improve their joining. As in the last two terms, spellings will be sent home every Monday and tested the following week, so please help your child to learn the words and also to help them think of other words that contain the same spelling pattern. It would also be very beneficial if spellings and spelling patterns already covered this year were revisited regularly at home as this will help consolidate your child's spelling accuracy and confidence. At school, the children will continue to read with an adult twice a week and will also participate in a weekly 'guided' group reading session. Please continue reading with your child on a daily basis at home.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, the children will look at partitioning (breaking down numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and units), consolidating and extending their understanding of addition and subtraction and solving money problems, including giving change. The children will also work on their knowledge of telling the time on both the digital and analogue clock and will work on measuring and comparing different capacities. They will continue to learn how to unravel word problems and apply the correct strategies as well as completing a weekly 'mental maths' test every Friday.

Science

Our Science topic this term is 'Light and Dark'. The children will develop an understanding of the different sources of light and participate in multi-sensory activities in order to understand the difference between light and dark. They will also investigate the way in which different materials reflect or absorb light. Throughout the topic, the children will practise their prediction and observational skills.



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 making a passport, designing a holiday poster and making comparisons of different seaside locations.

ICT

ICT sessions will take place at the Junior Branch computer suite this half term on Friday afternoons, where the children will be using the Apple Macs. Work this term will focus on 'Representing Information Graphically' and the children will be encouraged to use a range of programs to add data and produce graphs and tables. They will also continue to develop their mouse and keyboard skills, whilst using a greater range of icons independently.

PSHE

In PSHE our topic is 'Relationships'. This will involve circle time discussions and short activities principally focused on 'feelings' and how the children manage their feelings within the context of their relationships with their family and friends. The topic will also encourage the children to reflect and discuss how particular feelings are associated with different life experiences, such as loss.

Independence

As this is their final term in Year One, we will be particularly working on developing the children's independence over the next few weeks, and would very much appreciate your support in this. We would therefore ask that unless you have an urgent request at the beginning of the school day, you encourage your child to come into the classroom by themselves in the morning so that they take responsibility for putting away their own belongings and settle quickly to the first task of the day. Please do feel free, however, to come into the classroom on a Friday morning to look at your child's work or to make an appointment via Sheila should you have any queries or concerns.

We look forward to a productive and happy half term!

Kind regards,

The Year One Teachers

Mrs Sophie Ryan and Miss Diane Kirkwood

