



Robins, Kingfishers and Little Owls



Year 1/2 News



Happy New Year!

Welcome back! We hope you have had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break. This half term is set to be a very busy and exciting one. Included in this newsletter is an overview of this half term and any other information that may be important at this stage.

Spring Term 1 2015 Important Dates

This term's Topic:

How have Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela helped to make the world a better place?



We are very excited to be learning about Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks as part of our topic this half term. We will be discussing discrimination and how these significant individuals have been fundamental in helping to make the world a better place. We will be learning about their achievements and thinking about how life is different now.

January:

5th: Back to school!

February:

4th- PTA Film Night

6th- INSET DAY

WANTED:

Comic strips/ Magazines

To make our reading corner a little bit more exciting we would like a comic book/ magazine section. If you have any at home that you would like to donate to school please bring in and give to your child's class teacher

Reading at home:

At Etwall Primary school we believe that reading at home for just 5mins in the evening is an excellent way of supporting your child's progress. We ask then when you have read with your child please record this in their reading diary. By noting a comment in the reading diary, the class teacher can be made aware of anything your child may be struggling on and can address as necessary. We really appreciate all your support!

English and Maths

English-

This half term we will be basing our English work around some fantastic books written by award-winning author- Mini Grey. We will be spending 3 weeks learning about the wonderful characters she creates and the fabulous adventures they go on. We will also be improving upon our 'recount writing' skills for 2 weeks of this term.



Maths-

We will be having a jam-packed half-term in our maths lessons! Children will be revising and learning about numbers and place value, addition and subtraction (in the same week). We will also be learning about 'mass' as a measurement, geometry, money as a measurements and revising multiplication and division that will follow on from last term's work! Any revision of times tables at home will benefit your child greatly!

Useful Maths Vocab

There is a lot of language specific to mathematics that is used throughout school. Below are some examples that we will be using a lot of during this term.

Integer—a whole number

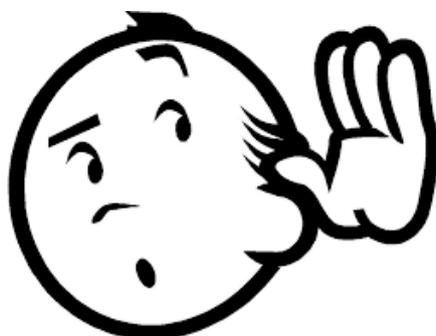
Sum—add (the word sum is often incorrectly used for any calculation but if the children are asked to find the sum in school, or in an assessment, they will be expected to add the numbers together).

Equivalent fractions—fractions that have the same value as each other e.g. $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$.

Common factor—a number that is the factor of two other numbers. (i.e. common to both numbers)

Science: Where did that racket come from?

In science we will be looking at the various ways sound can be made. We will be experimenting with various objects to distinguish between different sounds. We will also be thinking about how the sound appears to be louder the nearer we are to the source of the sound!



Computing

During this half-term we will be linking computing with our history topic (Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks) We will be using the computers to research the two influential people. Once children have compiled lots of research they will then design and create an interactive fact file about them.

Swimming Times

Robins: Tuesday PM

Kingfishers: Wednesday AM

Little Owls: Wednesday PM

As always, we are very appreciative of any parent/ carer helpers to support our swimming lessons. If you are available to help and could spare a couple of hours then please speak to your child's class teacher.

DT, P.E, Music, PSHE and RE topics:

DT- During our DT lessons (Design Technology) children will be practicing their textile skills. Children will be taught to use a range of materials creatively. Children will also be developing their range of art and design techniques by using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space.

P.E- In P.E children will be experimenting movement and ways of travelling around the various apparatus in the hall. I am sure all of the children will be very enthusiastic about this term's P.E topic!

Music- This half term we will be focusing on the 'dynamics' of south African Music. Children will be using their voices and musical instruments to explore the South African style music.

PSHE- To go alongside the start of the New Year, our PSHE topic will be 'Going for Goals'. We will be thinking about what we hope the new year will bring.

RE- The main faith we will be learning about is Christianity. We will be thinking about what Christians believe in. We will also be learning about some of the bible stories.

Anti-bullying work

During our Autumn term all children participated in the national 'Anti-bullying week'. To see what children go up to during the week please visit the school website and look on the 'Preventing and tackling bullying' page. The new 'Keep Safe Committee' which comprises of pupils, parents, teachers and governors have recently met to discuss a child-friendly leaflet which further informs them about bullying. These leaflets will be given to each pupil this term

Phonics Play

www.phonicsplay.co.uk is a great website that we have recently subscribed to and are beginning to use in school during our phonics lessons. There are some great activities and games on the website for children to play as part of their lessons and also independently on class computers and ipads. It is possible for you to access some of these games for you child to play

with at home. Your child can then play phonics games that are related to the phase they are working through at school. Go to the website and click on 'Free Phonics Play'. This will take you to all of the free resources that are available for each phase. There is also some helpful parent information. Please encourage your child to use this website to support them in their phonics work!

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Reading at home tip:

Ask questions about the story you are reading i.e. *why has the character said that? What do you think will happen next? How would you feel if you were that character?*

WANTED!

Adult helpers! (mums, dads, granny's and granddads!) We are always on the look out for more helpers, Whether you can help supervise the children during swimming lessons or listen to readers in class. Contact your child's class teacher and let them know when you would like to help!