

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This newsletter is to give you an overview of what your child will be learning through engagement and enquiry over this half term.

Year 1

Welcome back!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a happy, healthy Christmas break and were able to spend time with family and friends. We have begun to transition into a more formal learning environment and the children have adapted extremely well to the changes. All of the team have been very impressed with how settled and calm the children have been on their return to school. We look forward to another fantastic term of learning with you!

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge question for the next unit of learning will be 'Where is Big Ben?' This unit has a geography focus and revolves around the theme of cities. We will learn about the features of a city, London landmarks, the Great Fire of London, tourism and comparing capital cities. This unit will also recap physical and human features and maps.

English and Maths

English: At the beginning of term we are going to be looking at the Paddington Stories by Michael Bond to engage the children in letter writing. The children will then move onto writing instructions and will end the term learning about Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie (fantasy stories). During our writing we are going to continue to focus on our must haves; finger spaces, letter formation, capital letters and full stops as well as reading our own writing to edit and improve.

Maths: In maths we will be focusing on place value (within 20), addition, subtraction, doubles and near doubles. The children will then investigate mass, volume, length and height. We will continue to focus on accurate number formation and how to use and write mathematical symbols correctly.

Geography Skills and Knowledge:

- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop.
- A settlement is a place where people live and work and can be big or small, depending on how many people live there. Towns and cities are urban settlements. Features of towns and cities include homes, shops, roads and offices.
- Human features are man-made and include factories, farms, houses, offices, ports, harbours and shops. Landmarks and monuments are features of a landscape, city or town that are easily seen and recognised from a distance. They also help someone to establish and describe a location.
- Significant London landmarks include the Royal Albert Hall, Tower Bridge, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Monument to the Great Fire of London.

- Name and describe the purpose of human features and landmarks.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the UK, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country.
- Places can be compared by size, amenities, transport, location, weather and climate.
- Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of Malaysia.
- Identify the similarities and differences between two places.

PSHE Skills and Knowledge:

- Learn how to listen to other people and play and work cooperatively.
- Learn that everyone has different strengths.
- Learn to identify what they are good at, what they like and dislike.
- Learn to recognise what makes them special.

Other subjects within the wider curriculum

Music: In music the children will be learning about tempo, dynamics, pitch and timbre. The children will copy and create rhythm, clap and sing a song as well as perform as part of a group.

PE: Wednesday PE will be taught by a specialist PE coach. Thursday PE will be focusing on body movement, travelling and dance. Earrings cannot be worn for PE, so children must be able to remove their own. In addition can we please request full PE kits are available on these days as missing kit can lead to children being unable to physically participate in the lesson. Finally, due to our busy timetable, children will get changed for PE in class but will go home in PE kits on PE days (with school uniform in their kit bags) to maximise learning opportunities throughout the school day.

Art: We will be focusing on drawing from memory, linear and technical drawing, colour theory and print-making.

PSHE and Circle time: Our PSHE focus will be 'working together', focusing on a range of activities that will help enable children to maintain friendships and resolve conflicts.

French: In French the children will be learning about how and why French society celebrates Epiphany. We will go on to spend time learning the numbers 11 - 20 and colours. We hope to learn a song or two as well!

Useful Information

Reading: Please try to read with your child daily. Children will be bringing home two books as part of their homework. One book is their reading book and is matched to your child's phonics level. Please encourage your child to re-read their reading book, and question them to ensure they have fully understood it. These will be changed every Friday, so please ensure the book is returned on Thursday. Reading records will be online. The second book is a 'Reading for Pleasure' book which your child has chosen themselves. Please share it with your child and enjoy reading for pleasure.

Spelling: Children will be taking home look, say, cover, write, check sheets to practise tricky words. These are to be completed daily please to support literacy skills.

PE: PE will be taught on Wednesdays by a multi-skills PE Coach and on Thursdays we will be focusing on dance. Please ensure you have your indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week and ensure earrings are removed.

Coats: Please ensure a coat is brought into school every day and appropriate footwear.

Water Bottles: Can water bottles (containing water only) please be brought to school daily.

Useful websites- for both children and parents

<https://play.numbots.com/#/account/school-login-type?>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - Phonics games

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - Number bond game

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/ks1> - KS1 book suggestions

E-safety: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - Stay safe online