



Thailand Class

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Notes for Parents

Spring 2022

Welcome back everyone! It is so lovely to see the children again after the break, and I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday making special memories. Mrs Ansell, our class TA, and I have been so impressed at how well the children have settled into Year 1, their positive attitudes to learning and the fantastic progress they have all been making! Well done, Thailand class. Below are some of the themes and units of work that we will be covering this half-term.

Overall Themes

This half-term our Topic is 'Memory Box' and we will be linking our English and History learning to that theme alongside other curriculum areas. Our '**Memory Box Morning**' will be on **Tuesday 11th January 2022**. On this day, we would love the children to bring in a named envelope or shoebox of memories to share with their class. This may include photographs, gifts, tickets, medals, toys, etc. It would be lovely to see any parent/grandparent memories also! If you can, please include a picture of your child when they were a baby - we will start by trying to guess who is who from the baby photos.

Phonics

We will continue to grow the children's phonological awareness and phonics knowledge through varied, multi-sensory activities that support their reading, spelling and writing skills. In Phonics, your child will continually re-visit, learn, practise and apply their learning according to our new, bespoke Phonics scheme. To inspire your child's love of words, the reading experiences will be many and varied; we will share a range of stage-appropriate fiction and non-fiction texts to delve further into our theme and beyond. Chosen texts will develop the children's awareness of the different reasons for writing and we will talk regularly to reflect on an author's imagination and intent and explore this for ourselves when we write. Also, we shall act! We shall delve deeply into many, many texts to extend your child's vocabulary and show them just what is possible through the written word.

- **Reading Records:** I would love for you and your child to read and enjoy books together every day! I appreciate it won't always happen...but please try to make that your goal. **The reading scheme books are a fundamental stepping-stone to secure your child's confidence as a reader.** Reading scheme books and reading records will travel between school and home in named, plastic wallets. I ask that you write in your child's reading record **at least three times a week** and I, or Mrs Ansell, will make comments once a week. Just a gentle reminder that in our new reading scheme, each book **must** be read 3 times before changing.
- **Spellings:** Children will be given new spellings every Monday to learn and the list will come to you via Google Classroom. Your child will have the opportunity to recall their learnt spellings at some point during the week.

English

In English, we will be using a range of texts to delve further into our theme. We will start by writing Diary Entries from the perspective of characters from classic stories, such as Jack and the Beanstalk. We will then write Recounts of memories and descriptions of artefacts from the past. In each unit, we will develop our reading, writing and speaking and listening skills.

Mathematics

Children will continue to learn new mathematical concepts by using physical equipment (manipulatives) and pictorial representations in order to embed and apply new mathematical language and abstract constructs

to solve mathematical challenges. Your child will learn the key principles of number (to 50), to include counting, place value, addition and subtraction and comparing numbers. Children will also learn to identify the characteristics of 2D and 3D shapes. Please do continue to use Numbots at home for number fluency and MyMaths.

Science

This term, children will explore plants and trees! They will be learning some common names for plants, flowers and trees and they will learn about evergreen and deciduous trees. The children will also learn what plants need in order to grow well, taking part in some planting of bulbs and seeds.

PE

There are two PE sessions each week, and this term we will be focusing on gymnastics and games from the past. Your child will need a drawstring bag with a named PE kit for indoor and outdoor sessions. As the weather is now colder, please can I ask that children have appropriate outdoor clothing - shorts and t-shirts are only to be worn with a long sleeved top or if leggings are worn underneath. The PE kit should be in school every day then taken home on Fridays to be washed and ready for the following Monday. Please also ensure that your child's footwear fits and each item of clothing is named - we currently have a box of unnamed/unclaimed clothing in our classroom. There will be another opportunity for parents to look in the box before items move to lost property.

Class Worship & Religious Education

Our days begin either with an interactive Class Worship, a prayer or elements of learning taken from the new statutory curriculum subject: Relationships & Health Education curriculum (previously named PSCE). Occasionally, class worship is led by Father Paul or by Mr. Holloway. In RE this half term, **Judaism** is the focus of our study.

Art & Design

The children will complete a topic called, 'Fabulous Faces' during which they will analyse some famous self-portraits and complete their own self-portraits using basic proportions. They will also have a go at doing portraits of others applying their learning about the dimensions of a face.

Computing

We will continue to use Purple Mash as a comprehensive educational learning tool; your child will be using it to learn the rudiments of coding to take them on a journey from learning how to move a single character to writing a program that contains several characters that move within the context of a story scene. The principles of online safety will be integral throughout.

RHE

Relationship and Health Education will continue to be a compulsory part of the curriculum. We will start with learning about what makes me and others special.

Humanities

We will focus on History this spring by studying changes within living memory. This involves identifying what is new and old from pictures, using stories to answer questions about the past, using basic time lines, identifying a past and present event from their own and other people's lives and arranging objects in order of their age.

Homework

A homework grid will be available via Google Classroom. We ask that your child completes one activity or a piece of work each week. Depending on the task, we ask that you upload completed work onto Google Classroom.

Important dates for Thailand class:

- World of Work Day - Wednesday 16th February
- Half Term - Monday 21st - Friday 25th February

- Fair Trade Fortnight - Monday 21st February
 - INSET DAY - Monday 28th February
 - World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March
 - Red Nose Day - Friday 18th March
 - School Reports - Friday 25th March
 - Parents Evenings - Tuesday 29th March (3.30-6pm) and Thursday 31st March (3.30 - 6pm)
 - *online via the school cloud system
 - Easter Eucharist - Thursday 7th April
 - Last day of term and Easter Eggstravaganza - Friday 8th April
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- **Reading logs** - Please note you can also access books remotely via the online website MyOn.
 - **Homework** - a new homework grid will be placed onto the class pages of Google Classrooms. It is school policy that EVERY pupil should be attempting to submit homework. We suggest any form of homework to be beneficial in cementing your child's learning and is great at building the relationship between parent and child. Thirty minutes is more than enough for a KS1 child and you may wish to split this in to two 15 minute blocks. The homework grid is designed to give your child the choice as to what they would prefer to tackle. Please do NOT bring homework into school but submit it via Google Classrooms. If there is something special you would like to share with the class, please email the school office or the class email address so that we may share it electronically.
 - **Weekly spellings** - There are lots of fantastic apps which can help with this - Spelling Shed and Spelling Bee are recommended. I have also placed 'Bloom's taxonomy' spelling sheet onto Google Classrooms which gives you lots of fun ideas on how to learn your spellings. There are lots of play-type activities that the children could do - writing outside with chalks, washing up liquid bottles for writing, writing in sand, magnetic letters or making letters from coloured pens or bits of outdoor materials.
 - **Times tables** - Please ensure your child is practising their times tables at home each week. It is important that the children build on the EYFS experience of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. The school has signed up to a website called Times Tables Rockstars for which you should all have your individual login IDs and passwords. Please note that this website is designed to automatically move your child on once they have shown their recall time and accuracy are in line with recommendation. Any games for times tables would be beneficial, so please make sure you are practising. There are YouTube songs to help that you could have playing as well.
 - **Google Classrooms, My Maths, Accelerated Reader, MyOn and Purple Mash are also other websites the children can access to help with their learning.**

NOTICES - Just a reminder: Please remember we are a nut-free school so please do not pack nuts or foods containing nuts in the children's lunch boxes.

I look forward to the term ahead! Please get in touch if you have any problems or concerns on thailand@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Kind Regards,
Miss Rees