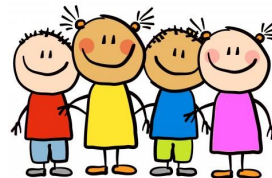


Eastlands Primary School

December 2019 Bulletin 1—Curriculum Update

Please see year group website pages for more information

Nursery—In Nursery Autumn term, we mainly focus on the three prime areas in the EYFS curriculum; Communication and Language (C&L), Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED) and Physical Development. Due to the lower numbers of children in Nursery we were able to complete our baseline entry assessments much quicker than previous years. The children came in broadly in line to where they should be in the three prime areas. During the first half term we focused on lots of phase one listening and attention activities and after October half term we have started to teach RWI phonics. A few children were showing an interest and now we are learning our second sound in the set and all the children love Fred and ask to do more phonics! This demonstrates how we are always adapting our teaching to the needs of the children each year, as every cohort is different. This term we currently have 1 pupil with a physical disability, 1 pupil with English as an Additional Language, 1 pupil with a Speech & Language need, 1 pupil with an undiagnosed Special Education Need. Our topics so far have included All about me, Superhero's, and Transport. We are looking forward to our trip with Reception to see Father Christmas at Warwick Arts Centre! Although we are lower on numbers of children in Nursery this year, it has had such an impact on the opportunities we have been able to provide and the experiences we can offer the children. We expect to see a rise in the hours children are doing now that they are settled and that some parents can return to work and claim 30 hours childcare if they wish to. Miss Shipp



Reception—This year we took part in the baseline pilot and all children were assessed for literacy (reading), language understanding and maths using the official materials. There were technical issues and this made the assessment difficult, with inconclusive results. As this baseline is narrow, it does not provide enough information to give a well-rounded picture of the child, so additional ongoing assessments informed our school baseline. Transition proved to be relatively smooth, due to work during the summer term, with nursery children spending time in reception and teachers swapping classrooms, among other things. We had 6 'new' children who have now settled well into the routines. This has meant we have been able to group the children earlier for mathematics mastery and most children were ready for the more structured approach. A lot of the children knew most of the set 1 sounds in phonics and so we were able to begin practise blending more quickly than last year. A small group, who could already confidently blend, were started on the RWI reading books, being taught by Mrs Thomas. All children have now been allocated a group, according to their level of phonics. The power of Reading has been effective in promoting a love of books and increasing children's knowledge at a deeper level, through exposure to new language and vocabulary. Most of our Early years curriculum now hangs off high quality, often more recently published texts, so we are introducing new texts and authors all of the time. As we are Penguin class, we chose 'The Blue Penguin' for our first text which we explored through drama and story mapping. However, most of our formal literacy is around phonics, fine motor skills and letter formation, through handwriting practise. Mrs Goff

Year 1. Polar bears have made a fantastic start to year one. They have settled really well into new routines and have stepped up to the challenges of KS1. We started the year focused on the book 'Tens things I can do to help my world'. It was amazing to learn all about how we can make a difference to our planet by making small changes to our everyday lives. We then moved onto 'The Snail and the Whale' and wrote some fantastic stories linked to the text. In maths we have consolidated our number knowledge to 10 and then 20. The children are now really familiar with the mathematics mastery lessons and really enjoy the pace and the practical activities. We have been using lots of manipulatives to find number bonds within 20, odd and even numbers, doubles and halves and many more. In geography we learned all about the UK and are now able to name the countries and capital cities in Great Britain. We looked at our own town, Rugby, and contrasted town life with the countryside and seaside. What a busy start to the year! Mrs Hopper

Year 2 Children in Tiger Class have settled well into new routines and the increased expectations in Year 2. In English we read the book '10 Things I can do to help my World'. It was wonderful to learn how we can make small changes to our daily lives, which can make a difference to our planet. We have also learnt about the negative impact of rubbish on wildlife and we made posters to encourage people to reuse, recycle or dispose of their rubbish responsibly. Year 2 enjoyed reading 'The Snail and the Whale' story and they wrote some fantastic stories of their own based on this story. In maths we have learnt how to add and subtract using 2 digit numbers and solve word problems using bar models. We have also learnt how to measure accurately in centimetres and metres and when to use each unit to measure. We are now learning about different ways to represent and interpret data. The children love our science lessons and have enjoyed planning and carrying out investigations about the conditions that seeds need to germinate and plants need to grow. We are trying to learn the names of some plants and trees and have investigated plants in the school grounds. We have been enthusiastic geographers and have been learning about 'Our World'. Impressively we can name the 7 continents and the 5 seas and talk about different hot and cold countries. We have really enjoyed using Atlases to help us learn about different countries. We enjoyed sharing our achievements with our parents in our Celebration Assembly and are now planning our first Year 2 Class Assembly. Miss Towers



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Year 3 - In our first term together Year 3 have been learning all about the Rainforest in our Geography topic, we found out about where they exist on our planet and what animals and plants live and grow there. The class have continued learning maths through 'Mathematics Mastery. This is a maths programme that deepens children's understanding of mathematical concepts and different methods to use. It has been very challenging in places, we use a lot of different manipulatives such as bead strings and our base ten to help us to understand. Our English lessons have continued to follow the 'Talk for Writing' format. We have taught two book studies one by Philip Pullman – The Firework-Makers Daughter and another by Roald Dahl – The Magic Finger. We have also written Non-Chronological Reports based on an imaginary dragon and some poetry based on our senses. This term our Science topic has been learning about Electricity and we are currently making circuits such as those used in burglar alarms. Once the children join KS2 we begin teaching another language which for our class is French. In the coming few weeks we head into the Christmas season and this year our class and the Year 4's will be jointly preparing for a presentation to parents on Christmas around the world. Mrs Warrington Miss Haynes



Year 4 - In English, Year 4 started off the new year writing newspaper reports based on the fairytale Little Red Riding Hood, sharing and exploring adaptations of the story. Recently we have begun to follow a power of reading teaching sequence based on the fantastic adventure story 'Arthur and the Golden Rope'. The children have already taken on exploration of illustration, poetry, persuasive television adverts and character descriptions. Further genres to be covered throughout this term include; diary writing, story telling and debate. Maths has focused on furthering knowledge in place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Following maths mastery, the children have developed their knowledge in each of these areas through learning about and applying a number of different strategies to find a final answer using reasoning skills to explain the steps and methods used. This term in science year 4 have explored electricity and electrical circuits through various exciting experiments. We have been looking at collecting data and recording it through the use of tables and graphs. Topics covered in history and geography include Romans, with an exciting trip to Lunt Roman Fort, enjoyed by all and Cold environments. Year 4 have been attending weekly swimming lessons with most children progressing into use of the main swimming pool on occasion. We also continue to practice songs for the Young Voices event coming up in the New Year. Miss Grubb.



Year 5 - What a great first term we have had! The children have hit the ground running and are rising to meet Year 5 standards and expectations. In English, we began by studying, "Beowulf" by Michael Morpurgo, looking at characters, language and descriptive techniques. This led the pupils on to produce their own version of a defeating a monster tale. The children are currently studying narrative poetry; looking at evocative language, rhythm, metaphors, alliteration and personification. They will perform the poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes and write a story written from the perspective of one of the characters. In Maths, we are now using Maths Mastery and so far have studied place value, line graphs, timetables and we are currently completing a unit on multiplication and division. The children are thoroughly enjoying the new challenges of the units. In Science, we are learning all about electricity looking at making simple circuits, circuit diagrams, famous scientists associated with electricity and investigating the brightness of a bulb and how this can be changed within the circuit. In Theme work, Year 5 have been learning about the different climates and biomes around the world whilst investigating the different species we may find in each biome and climate. Our recent English work has linked to this theme too, as we are reading "Journey to the River Sea" by Eva Ibbotson which is a story based in the Amazon rainforest, so the two subjects have been enhanced by knowledge gained in both subjects. It has been utterly amazing to learn about all the different and varied species of plants and animals that live in different biomes and climates. Mrs Hope, Mrs Spyrou Mrs Birnie.

Year 6 - Year 6 have hit the ground running this term! In Maths we have been improving our place value skills with reading and writing numbers up to 10 million, practising all of the methods for the four operations to aid our arithmetic skills, interpreting pie charts and line graphs and then calculating percentages. We have continued to develop our explanation strategies and strengthen our understanding surrounding key mathematical approaches. In English, we began by writing our own portal stories based on "Where the Wild things are". Throughout the unit, we have been exploring setting descriptions and informal writing (and how it contrasts with Standard English). Grammatically, we have learnt about Passive and Active Voice whilst also comparing the uses of punctuation – particularly semi-colons to marks two or more closely related clauses. Our class reader this term has been 'The Jamie Drake Equation' by Christopher Edge; an author who regularly weaves scientific fact into his science fiction novels (feel free to ask the Year 6s about the Hubble Space Telescope, Fibonacci Sequence and the International Space Station!). In Science, we have studied the wonders of Electricity and how it is often taken for granted through every walk of life! We have analysed and compared the difference between Parallel and Series Circuits; explored how power from a cell can have an impact on an appliance and even a little bit about Kinesthetic Energy! For "Theme" was Longitude and Latitude, where the children explored the climates of North and South America, identified the longitude and latitude of certain cities within this continent and then we explored Time zones around the world. We are now starting our next theme which is Elizabethans! Mr Northedge



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