

Eastlands Primary School

November Bulletin 1 Curriculum Update

Please see year group website pages for more information

Nursery- What a fantastic start Nursery have had to their first experience of school. This 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. The children have been getting used to their new routines and the behavioural expectations. Due to the lower birth year continuing this year, having less children meant we were able to complete our baseline entry assessments much quicker than previous years. This has enabled us to move children on in their learning straight away and we can already see progress in just 7 weeks! One thing we would like to ask for your help with is independence. At this point most children should be able to put their own coats and shoes on, with just a bit of help with zips and buckles. I would encourage parents to think about the choice of footwear to promote independence, Velcro is very easy for children and they are extremely proud once they can do it themselves. We appreciate that children have spent more time indoors at home this year, but any help with practicing this key skill would be great!



During the first half term we focused on getting to know each other, making friends, and doing listening and attention activities. This half term we are learning about lots of celebrations; Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Children in Need, and the Christmas story. Our topic alongside this is transport. After Christmas we plan to start teaching RWI phonics, please see the PowerPoint on the website under 'parent workshops' to help your child at home.

Miss Shipp, Miss Heales

Reception—The Reception children have settled in really well and the children 'new' to Eastlands and the children who attended Eastlands Nursery have integrated very well. It is amazing to see how they have progressed with their learning in just 7 weeks! We start our day with maths, using Maths Mastery. This really develops the children's conceptual understanding and already many children can describe 6 as eg 3 and 3 or 4 and 2. We have also been comparing sizes, especially when we read the story of Goldilocks and the 3 bears. In phonics, we continue to use RWI (Read, Write, Ink) and the children have now learnt all the set 1 sounds and most children are now beginning to use them to blend to read and segment to spell. One group of children who could confidently blend were started on the RWI reading books, and are being taught by Mrs Ryan. The children are already using these skills in the 'continuous provision and many of them are enthusiastically 'writing' messages, labels and cards. 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. We started with the whole school text 'Here We Are' and then as we are Penguin class, we chose 'The Blue Penguin' for our first text which we explored through class discussions, small world and story mapping. The children are also loving producing pictures and models in the very popular Creative area so all your contributions of boxes etc are very welcome! Our next topic will be Transport where the role play area will become a bus! I wonder where we will travel to? Miss Towers, Mrs Ryan



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 'Here we Are' by Oliver Jeffers as part of the whole school recovery curriculum. We explored all about our world and the different features of our planet and what makes it such a wonderful place. We thought about what our planet is like and what sort of things we can see or do here on Earth. In maths we have consolidated our number knowledge to 10, focussing on number bonds to 10, finding one more and one less and doubling and halving. We also learnt how to use part-whole models and number tracks to solve addition and subtraction equations. The children are now really familiar with the mathematics mastery lessons and really enjoy the pace and the practical activities. In geography we learned all about the UK and learnt about the capital city London. We looked at our own town, Rugby, and contrasted town life with village and city life. What a busy start to the year! In science our topic is 'Our Living Earth' where we have been learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly, learning the names of baby animals and grouping objects into 'lived', 'non-living' and 'never lived'. This unit is continuing into this half term. Miss Haynes, Mrs Hopper, Mrs Butlin

Life Cycle of a Butterfly



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 'Here we are' we talked about life on planet Earth and being part of a community. We made leaflets to give to Bob the Alien to help him settle into life on Earth. Next half term we will read the story of 'Pattan's Pumpkin' which is set in India and follows the story of a flood. In maths we have learnt how to add and subtract using 2 digit numbers and solve word problems using these skills. Next half term we will start looking at bar models and using these to solve problems. The children love our science lessons and have enjoyed learning about 'Our Living Earth' we have grouped animals and even made our own fossils! 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. Next half term we will be learning about 'Famous Queens' in our History lessons. We will learn about Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II and what life was like during their reigns. Miss Tuckey, Miss Haynes



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During Autumn 1, Year 3 have been learning all about the Rainforest as our first Geography topic. We found out about where they exist on our planet and how different people live and what else lives and grows 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 dienes to help us to understand. Our English lessons have continued to follow the 'Talk for Writing' format intertwined with the Power of Reading scheme. We have taught three book studies this half term, Here we Are (a recovery curriculum used throughout the school), one by Roald Dahl – The Magic Finger and another quality text Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton. This term our Science topic has been learning about Light and Space, we are excited to get started with some experiments in the next half term. Once the children join KS2 we begin teaching another language which for our class is French, a new subject the pupils are really engaging with and enjoying. In the coming few weeks we head into the Christmas season and this year our class will be preparing something to record and share with parents and family members. Miss Grubb, Miss Huggins



The Magic Finger

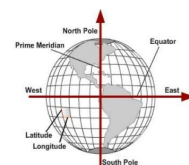


In English, year 4 have started off the new academic year, learning about Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to the South Pole. The children have researched his journey and his motivations and it has linked beautifully with our geography topic- Life in the Freezer. The children have written wonderful non-chronological reports about his ship, including labelled diagrams and glossaries. Further genres to be covered throughout this term, are newspaper reports, character descriptions and Shakespeare's 'Midsummer night's dream'. The children will be involved in drama, writing their own newspaper report and will learn all about Roman characters in our class book. In maths we have focused on furthering our knowledge in place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have followed the maths mastery programme and the children are becoming adept at problem solving and using their numerical skills for times tables. This term, in science we have been looking at light, Earth and space and the children are enjoying their research about the planets and also developing their skills to evaluate their work. In particular, we are investigating that light travels in straight lines and that day and night is caused by the Earth's rotation. Year 4 are looking forward to learning about the Romans in history where they will discover about how and why they successfully invaded Britain. We are hoping to have a Roman day, so that the children can celebrate all their learning. The children have been learning how to describe themselves and others in French, they have been drawing and painting in art and they are listening to lots of new musical composers and compositions, so that they can describe different types of music. We have had a wonderful start to our new academic year. Mrs Spyrou, Mrs Birnie, Miss Allen

Year 5 - What a great first half term we have had! The children have hit the ground running and are rising to meet Year 5 standards and expectations. In English, we have been reading, "Cosmic" by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. We have written both formal and informal letters in role as different characters and have used our VIPERS skills to answer comprehension questions about our class text. We are about to begin reading "Beowulf" by Michael Morpurgo which will lead onto the pupils producing their own version of a defeating a monster tale. In Maths, we are using Maths Mastery and so far, have studied place value, line graphs, timetables and we are currently completing a unit on multiplication and division. In Science, we are learning all about Earth, Light and Space. We have studied such things as the distance of the planets away from the sun, how day and night are created, time zones around the world and looked at the phases of the moon. In Theme work, Year 5 have been learning about the different climates and biomes around the world whilst investigating the different plant and animal species we may find in the Gobi Desert. (linked to the setting of our class text "Cosmic") I have been especially impressed with the children's effort and enthusiasm during Art lessons. The children have produced some fantastic perspective drawings of both the inside and outside of the school building, whilst also drawing their own self-portraits! Well done Year 5! Mrs Hope, Miss Magdij



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 considered our own place on the planet with the whole school text "Here We Are" which we used to write our own formal and informal letters about why we are thankful to be here now and what we can do to sustain improvements in the community.



Throughout the unit of our class reader "The Land of Neverendings" by Kate Saunders, we have been exploring the different ways that skilled authors can use fiction to explore serious issues. We have been writing for different purposes: to entertain (stories), to persuade (adverts) and to inform (newspaper articles). Grammatically, we have learnt about Passive and Active Voice whilst also working to use different punctuation marks for effect, particularly brackets and dashes for parenthesis and relative clauses and pronouns to extend information in sentences. In Science, we have studied the relationship between Light, Earth and Space and how the planet we live on is a smaller part of a much larger and more complex system. Stemming from the natural light source (the Sun) we have learnt how light travels and allows us to see. We have developed our Evaluation skills throughout this unit and applied these to a number of different investigations both inside and outside of the classroom. 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 each created our own geographical report to inform some travellers of their journey from the North of North America to the South of South America. We are now starting our next theme which is Elizabethans! Mr Northedge, Miss Stonell, Mr Clements

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