

Class 1

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2!

Clocks have been turned back, the nights are drawing in and hats and gloves have been re-discovered! I love this time of year: firework displays, autumn leaves ... but more importantly ... it's time to prepare for our Christmas play!

Thankfully, we have also time to begin our new topic, which is called 'Home Sweet Home'.

Mrs. Davies



Term 2 Topic: *Home Sweet Home*



Literacy: We will be reading *The Jolly Postman* and looking at characters and traditional tales within the book. We will also look at the journey of a letter from posting to delivery. The children will also study non-fiction texts, comparing living in a village with living in a city.

Maths: Our roleplay area is the Nether Heyford 'One Stop/Post Office' which will provide opportunities for the children to practise using money, weighing parcels etc. The children will also explore shape and pattern and numbers and look for examples in the world around them. Other learning in mathematics this term will include counting in 2's, doubling, halving and looking at days of the week and months in a year.

Science: We will be exploring materials with the help of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children will sort and group materials according to their properties. We will then test the materials according to how waterproof, strong and warm they are!

DT: The children will be exploring how to join, build and fix structures before designing, planning and making their own model houses.

Geography: The children will be exploring the local area, looking at aerial photographs and maps. The children will also compare different houses and localities.

History: Our history focus will explore how houses have changed and developed through time.

Art: We will be looking at how to draw/paint houses, with a focus on the artist Paul Klee. The children will also draw imaginary/fantasy houses linked to traditional tales, e.g. the Gingerbread House.

Computing: Creating pictures of houses, patterns using the paint program. The children will also learn how to control 'Beebots' by programming them to follow different directions.

Other subjects ...

Music: The children will be learning songs and playing musical instruments linked to the topic. The children will also follow the *Charanga* programme and practise songs for our Christmas Play.

RE: We will continue to think about places in Christianity and to learn about the Nativity story.

PE: The children will be doing Games on a Monday and Gymnastics on a Thursday.

PSHE/ P4C: The children will continue to learn about 'Protective Behaviours'. They will also focus on learning about the meaning of 'home and houses', thinking about what is important for survival and what is material. We will link this to a basic understanding of money. The school's metacognition programme and respect values will also be looked at in detail.

Helping your child at home ...

Reading: Please continue to encourage your child to share their book at home and change their reading book when they need a new one. Please write in your child's reading journal every time they read. On a Monday we will note down how many times each child has read. If they have read 5 times in the previous week they will move up the 'bookworm' (displayed in the classroom). When they have reached the top of the bookworm (10 weeks) they will be awarded a certificate in assembly ... some children are getting very close to the top already!

Phonics: Please continue to encourage your child to practise their phonics and handwriting skills in their red homework book. Every Monday the children will be given an informal phonics test where they will be asked to have a go at spelling words using the phonics that they have been learning. Please can we have all books in on a Monday so that new homework can be stuck in!

Maths: Please see the whole-school letter about *My Maths* - a new whole-school resource for mathematics homework.

Please make sure your child's reading book and homework book are kept in their book bag at all times.

Class 1 information ...

We have two trips organised for this term ...

- On Monday 6th November, we are going to 'The Countryside Education Centre' in Holdenby where the children will be making dens and exploring animal habitats. We will be leaving at 9.30am and we will be back for 3.15pm. All children will need to wear warm clothes and waterproofs. They will need to bring a packed lunch and drinks too.
- On Tuesday 21st November, we will be going to the 'Thinktank' museum in Birmingham. The children will focus specifically on the 'materials' section of the museum and then take part in a 'Lego building workshop'. Please can your child be in school for 8.30 am so we can leave promptly at 8.45am. The children will be back for 3.15pm. Again, they will need a disposable packed lunch and drinks.

There will be two performances of the Key Stage 1 Christmas play on Tuesday 5th December: 2:00 – 3:00 and 6:00 – 7:00. This year, we may need some help with a few costumes; we will be sending home details of what is needed as soon as possible!

Please can we also ask for some junk modelling materials – shoe boxes, smaller boxes (e.g. toothpaste boxes), tubes, egg boxes etc? The children will be using these to make their model houses. We would also like any old parcel envelopes, stamps etc. for our roleplay post office.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions.

Mrs. Davies, Miss Denny and Mrs. Mercer