



Class Panda
Information for Parents
Spring Term 2018

Our topics this term are 'Light and Dark' and 'Homes and Houses'.

The children will discuss what happens in daytime and at night, find out about nocturnal animals and experience what it feels like to be in the dark. We will investigate how we see light and identify sources of light. We will learn that we need light to see and that darkness is the absence of light. The children will find out about reflected light and help design an outfit for a cyclist to be seen in the dark. In our homes and houses topic we will consider the difference between a house and a home. We plan to make our own cave, tepees and dens. We will find out about the different materials that are used to make a variety of houses and think about which are best to build houses in different parts of the world. Our artwork will reflect the topics; sunshine, moons, night time scenes and cave paintings. In music, the children will use simple percussion instruments to build long and short sounds to mimic storms, weather and feelings. The topic will be complemented by a trip to Cannon Hall for a Victorian Kitchen experience for Years 1 & 2.

R.E. and PSED - We will continue to think about our Christian Values - helping each other, using kind words and actions, looking after our classroom and school, telling the truth and thinking about our actions. We will read some stories from the Bible together and discuss how the stories can help us make good decisions in our lives. We will find out about festivals in other cultures and our own - Kwanza, Chinese New Year and Easter. We will work with the whole school to learn the meaning of hymns and collective worship as well as celebrate Easter in our local church.

Continuous Provision - As an integral part of the Early Years curriculum we offer continuous play opportunities both indoors and outdoors. The staff will enhance the provision to meet the needs of the children and reflect the children's interests. The provision for play within the classroom will help develop essential skills for future learning. We will be providing experiences to support the topics - dark cave, shiny dressing up, reflective mirrors and light sources as well as different materials to test out their properties such as water resistance, malleable, stretchy, rough, smooth, shiny and dull.

Outdoor play and adventures are integral to our daily activities
please ensure the children have sensible footwear and very warm clothing.

Maths - Reception children will develop mathematical language and knowledge through structured play, ICT and practical experiences. We will build on our counting skills. The children will be encouraged to form numerals correctly as well as say one more/less than any number to 10 and then 20. Year 1 children will continue to build their maths skills daily, including speed recall of number facts in games, ipads and Espresso. We will learn number bonds to 10 by heart, practise doubling and counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10. We will use number lines and mental strategies, to add and subtract within 10 and then to 20. The children will further develop their understanding of shape, space and measure; describing 2d and 3d shapes, recognising and using money and telling the time to the hour and half.

Literacy - Our focus books are selected from well-known picture books and traditional tales. Here are a few of the texts chosen to complement our topic; The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark (Jill Tomlinson), Can't You Seep Little Bear (Martin Waddell) and A Dark, Dark Tale (Ruth Brown). We will explore some Traditional Tales such as Hansel and Gretel, The Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. We will also hear lots of silly rhymes, songs and poetry and try to learn a few as a class. All children will continue to have daily phonics activities to develop reading, writing and spelling skills. Year Ones will continue their grammar sessions to develop a working knowledge of the English language through parts of speech (for example identifying nouns and verbs in sentences and using capital letters for proper nouns).

ICT - Coding - Year One will be working in small groups to complete units from Espresso Coding. They will begin to learn how to give precise and unambiguous instructions to computers.

PE - Year One will work together to develop basic PE skills. They will be working on balance, controlled movement, shoulder and elbow pivots, upper body strength and following instructions.

Reception will build their physical skills through outdoor play, (including scooters and obstacle courses) and indoor circle games, ball games and parachute activities.

Additional information and reminders - Year 1 Gym Sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays. PE kit needs to be available every day. Reception should have a change of clothing in a bag. School Library books are changed by volunteers on Fridays. **Please ensure reading books are returned to school in book bags EVERY day.** Please ensure children have a named **water** bottle left in school. **Snacks:** All children are provided with a piece of fruit for Morning Snack. **It is a good idea however to provide your child with their own healthy snack for the afternoon.** There will also be a snack available every afternoon (raisins, fruit, toast, cheese etc.) but it is often the case that children like to have their own healthy snack from home (no sweets or chocolate please).

We are a Nut Free School, please make sure that we are kept updated on any food allergies.