

**Autumn Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope has been a good holiday for you and your family. I feel like I’ve had a good break and are now ready to get to know you and your children really well. Of course, you are already the experts on your children so if there is anything you feel I should know about them please do not hesitate to send me a note via the home/ school diary or make an appointment with myself. It is important to me that your children are first and foremost happy at school. I am excited about the term ahead and the curriculum I have planned. Hopefully this will enthuse, inspire and motivate your child so they can continue their learning journey with confidence.

Our day beings at 8:50am when the door to our classroom will open. Please ensure your children arrives promptly as lessons begin at 9am. The school day finishes at 3:05pm. They will need to bring a water bottle, their book bag and their lunch if they do not have a school dinner.

Our Topic for this term is ‘ Home’ and has a strong Geography link . Please see the notes below on Geography to find out more.

The following is an overview of what will be happening this term:

**Maths** – We will be focusing on number, number bonds, addition and subtraction. In our fluency activities we will be going over previously learnt concepts and practising counting in different ways.

**Phonics –** Your child will attend a phonics session every day. The children will learn about the different sounds in the English language that we use for reading and writing.

**Reading** – In school we will be continuing to develop our reading skills. When approaching reading children are always encouraged to use their phonic and blending strategies when trying to decode new words. We will also focus on the skills of learning new vocabulary, making inferences, predicting what might happen, explaining what has happened and answering questions using retrieval techniques. Reading continues to be a priority at Firbeck and we ask that you support us with this by reading at home at least 4 times a week. We hope to give out reading books as soon as possible.

**Writing** – We will begin by looking at narrative writing. The children will be guided through writing a story and then plan and write their own friendship story. On this journey the will learn about the features of story writing, using full stops and capital letters and they will be introduced to the conjunction ‘and.’ After we have completed this we will move on to looking at poetry. The children will be guided through using poetry techniques and then plan and write a poem about themselves.

**Handwriting –** Handwriting will take place daily. The children will go over letter formation and placing letters on the line correctly. They will also learn to make capital letters the correct size in relation to lowercase letters.

**Geography –** This term we will look at our locality of Wollaton. Thinking about the question – Are all towns the same? The children will learn to ask geographical questions, create a simple map and compare Wollaton to the town of Skegness. The children will make a travel brochure about Wollaton.

**Art -** We will be focussing on drawing and mark- making. They will be experimenting with different media thinking about line, shape, texture and pattern. They will develop their own work using a range of marks to draw their dream house.

**PE** – There are two sessions of PE a week. These will continue to be on Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has PE kit for these days. One session will focus on dance and the other on Gymnastics.

**Science** – We will be learning about seasonal changes. Thinking about the questions Why does it get darker earlier in Winter? and why are there so many leaves on the floor? They will learn about the different seasons and changes that take place. They will investigate how day length varies and weather associated to the seasons.

**RE** – In RE we will be learning about ourselves and how we care for others.

**PSHE** – We will be thinking about the question- Who am I and how do I fit in? They will learn about choices and responsibilities

**Computing-** We will begin with learning about how to be safe when using technology and going onto the internet.

As you can see there are lots of things to keep us busy. I cannot wait to get started.

Thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or queries regarding your child’s learning.

Best wishes,

Miss Yeoman