

Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Jane Bellerby

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Panda Class have had a marvellous start to the year last half term beginning their topic 'Are we lucky to live in London?'. Children have learnt about London Landmarks, The British Isles, changes in seasons and celebrating themselves in the world that they live in. Please support your child to reflect on their learning by asking them questions based on recognising London Landmarks, locating and naming the capital cities of the UK and countries of the British Isles, noticing the changes in weather and naming plants in the local area.

This term we will continue to learn about the theme of London and explore the history of London through the Gunpowder Plot. Children will build on their knowledge of London so far and begin to look at the chronology of time and how landmarks have changed over the years.

English

In English, children will learn the story of Dick Whittington. We will be holding Dick Whittington Day where children will come to school dressed as some of the characters from the past e.g: merchants, bakers, cook, cat, the London mayor. As we explore the story there will be different writing opportunities like, character descriptions and setting description and children will write their own alternative stories based in modern London. As well as phonics lessons, we will also have English lessons every day. The English lessons will develop children's oracy and comprehension skills, exposing them to lots of new vocabulary that I will share with you soon. Lessons will support children to read words independently either by using their phonics knowledge or because they have learnt a new sight word. This half term we will be focussing on sentence structure and for children to be able to independently write several short sentences at speed. They will be working on the grammatical understanding of capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and they will begin to use conjunctions such as 'and' and 'because'. Other texts we will be covering are:

- Cinderella
- Beauty and the Beast
- Odd Dog out by Rob Biddulph
- Mog the forgetful cat by Judith Kerr
- Tabby McTat by Julia Donaldson

Phonics

Children are learning Set 2 and 3 sounds to build their sounds knowledge. Children are encouraged to read words and help them spell lots of new words. It is important children feel confident to phonetically spell words. Children will take part in daily Phonics and be given two Phonics home reading books. They will also have weekly spellings to support word recognition and writing.

I will be hosting a phonics and early reading workshop on Friday 24th November at 9:10am.

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May I take this opportunity to reassure parents that children learn to read and comprehend at different paces. We carry out child friendly assessments and move children to different groups where they are best placed for the emotional or reading needs. If you have any questions about groupings, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Core book Challenge

This term we will start our Core book challenge! We have a selection of 30 core books that every child will aim to read by the end of the year. We want our children to have a love of reading and this is a way to confidently say that all our children have read 30 age related picture books by the end of year 1. When children have read one of the core books they will write up a reflection on what they thought about the story. We will have a special assembly to reveal our core book challenge. Each time a child reaches a 10-book milestone, they will receive a badge! We are really excited about launching this to the children.

History

This term we will further explore the question 'Are we lucky to live in London?' Our focus will be looking at the history of London and learning about Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot. Children will learn through storytelling, fireworks art, discussions and role play. As we build on developing children's vocabulary, we will use tier 2 and 3 words (Please see attached) to retell the events chronologically. Children will participate in an immersive drama workshop with 'Perform', where the children will create a fireworks soundscape, travel back to 1605 through role play and meet Guy Fawkes!

Science

In Science we will continue our learning on Plants and work scientifically to classify types of trees and plants and observe the growth of plants over a period. This half term we really want the children to understand types of scientific enquiry which are:

- Classifying
- Observing over time
- Pattern seeking
- Researching

We are supporting the children to ask scientific questions (I wonder if.... what do you think might? Is it possible that...?)

We are supporting children to plan their enquiries and recording this in their Science books. We are teaching the children the importance of observation and linking this with developing their oracy skills. Children will link their mathematical skills to science by learning how to take measurements. They will learn how to present results, again linking to their mathematical learning. Children will be able to talk about their findings and use new vocabulary to do so. They will record their results in their own plant diary. The class will use secondary sources to research and name plants. We will use the Woodland Trust as a source of information

[Outdoor Learning Resources For Schools - Woodland Trust](#)

Maths

Children will use part, part, whole model to understand addition and subtraction number sentences. The concept of Maths mastery originates from Singapore Maths, children can explain their mathematical reasoning in a variety of ways. Children will use the add, subtract and equals symbols to write and answer number sentences. We will also start out geometry unit where children will learn to name and recognise, sort and seek patterns using 2D and 3D

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shapes. All maths learning will include the use of practical resources and visuals before moving to abstract sums ($4+3=?$, $? =6=2$) and questions. Each child has a maths book where their work is recorded, and I am looking forward to sharing this with you at parents evening coming soon.

Personal, Social and Health Education

Our Unit is 'Celebrating Differences' where children will think about similarities and differences between themselves and their peers. The class will focus on our core values, in particular 'kindness' which will link to Anti Bullying Week. Children will pledge towards having Mulberry Wood wharf as an Anti-Bullying School.

Religious Education

We will continue our learning on Islam and learning about how Muslims mark Ramadan and Eid has celebrations. We will celebrate Diwali, Remembrance Day and Hanukkah through class activities, storytelling, assemblies and dressing up days. Children will also be busy working on their Christmas recital and taking part in the Christmas show on the 19th December.

Music

Children are taking part in the Festival of Arts and will perform The Gingerbread Man. Children will take part in weekly singing assemblies and learn songs linked to topics and events. Remember, Remember the 5th of November, the Anti Bullying song and all the festive singing as we prepare for our Christmas show. During music sessions there is a particular focus on duration and pitch. In the Spring term we have a music project planned to involve the learning of instruments and children composing their own music, watch this space!

Computing

Children are learning about e-safety and ways to keep safe whilst using devices. Children have been using IPADS to create digital art and photo editing. Children will continue to learn the skills needed to create a Digital painting.

Design and Technology

Children will be designing, creating and evaluating their own moving vehicles. They will produce a London Vehicle of their choice with wheels and axels. We will be holding a D&T Day on 12th December. On this day children will build on skills they learnt in the Early Years and now they will be defined in to learning skills which are:

- Designing
- Making
- Evaluating
- Technical Knowledge

Important events / diary dates:

- Festival of Arts – Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November
- Diwali celebrations – Friday 10th November
- Anti Bullying Week 13th –17th November
- Children in Need- Friday 17th November
- The Gunpowder Plot Drama Workshop – TBC
- Dick Whittington Day – 20th November
- Parents Evening – Tuesday 21st November and Wednesday 22nd November
- Phonics and Early Reading Parent Workshop – Friday 24th November

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- D&T Day (Making Vehicles) Tuesday 12th December
- Christmas performance (Show day) – Tuesday 19th December
- Christmas Party- Thursday 21st December (come to school dressed in party clothes)
- Last day of term- Friday 22nd December at 1pm

This term we will be doing the following:

Weekly PE lessons	Tuesday and Friday
Spelling	Monday (Spell check Friday)
RWI reading books and RWI Home Reading Books	Monday
Core Reading Challenge and Class Library book	Friday
Give Me 10	Thursday 8am and 8:50am

Please ensure your children brings their books and water bottle to school everyday.

Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Lots of water to drink.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth **every morning** and **every night** before bed to stay healthy.

Tier 2 and 3 words – The Gunpowder Plot

Tier 2	Tier 3
terrible plot uncovered underneath monarch of England miserable plotters stored set them alight almost succeeded guarding horrified angry chants failed attempt at treason arrested Focus adverbials: Over four hundred years ago... In 1605, On the night of.... Immediately Years later	Houses of parliament Gunpowder

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Description	Basic words that most children know before entering school	Words that appear frequently in texts and for which students already have conceptual understanding	Uncommon words that are typically associated with a specific domain or content area
Examples	clock, baby, happy	coincidence, fortunate, insist, adapt	chrysalis, peninsula, decimal

(Beck, McKeown, Kucan, 2002)

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to all the wonderful learning and experience that Panda Class will take part in this term as well as all the achievements they will make.

Kind regards,
Year 1 Team