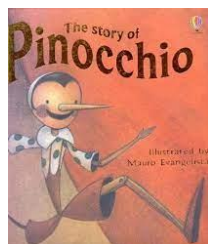


Year One Newsletter – Spring Term 2024

Happy New Year to you all! We cannot believe that we are in February now and that half term is already on the horizon! Your children settled back into school after the Christmas holidays amazingly well and we are really proud of how they are living our school values of Pride, Compassion, Respect and Responsibility on a daily basis.

So, let's have a look at what's in store for the spring term.....

In English we started the term with a wonderful unit based on the Michael Morpurgo story "Wombat Goes Walkabout". This was an excellent opportunity for the children to find out about Australian mammals and to start to understand about the Australian climate. They will be building on this during Arts Around the World week in the summer term. We are currently writing our school reports - at Gothic Mede the children write their own reports which they will present to you at Pupil Learning Conferences in the week after half term. Our next unit will be a poetry unit based on the poem "All By Myself" The poetry unit links into this term's star challenge (click [here](#) for the star challenge). We can't wait to see the children perform their chosen poems! Later in the term we will be exploring the traditional tale of Pinocchio.



The children have made great progress with their reading in year one and we are very impressed by how many children are already accessing the e-books set for them on the ELS e-book library. These e-books directly link to the phonics that your child has been learning that week. If you haven't yet had a chance to use this e-library resource, please go to www.oxfordowl.co.uk and enter the login details that you will find in your child's reading record.

In Maths this term we are learning about numbers up to 20. The children have shown excellent understanding of the composition of these numbers and are now adding and subtracting numbers to 20, before we move onto numbers up to 50. We will be learning about length and height and mass and volume later in the term so any practical experience you can give your children of these concepts will be very valuable. Many of our lessons follow the White Rose scheme of work. Home learning videos for the spring term can be found [here](#). These can be very useful if your child is struggling with a concept or needs some further confidence or pre-learning. We are also looking forward to our Mastering Number workshop on Friday 1st March and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come and see Maths in action!

In Art this term we are looking at Impressionist art through the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet. The children have already show great skill in reproducing Van Gogh's painting *Plain near Auvers* and Monet's landscapes and citiscapes.



In DT (Design Technology) we will soon be starting an exciting unit called *Moving Pictures*. This links into our English work on Traditional Tales as the children will be creating scenes based on traditional tales but with moving components.

We have been delighted by the scientific discussions that the children have contributed to in Science this year. As a year group, they are developing their investigative and questioning skills and will be putting them into action this term as they investigate the uses and properties of a wide range of materials and then moving onto comparing the structure of different animals.

"How have toys changed?" is the topic of our history lessons next half term. The children will get an insight into toys from the past and how they compare to toys in the present. They will be sequencing artefacts from different time periods and describing how toys have changed over time.

In Computing we have been learning about the direction keys on the keyboard in our Maze Explorers unit and the children have extended their understanding of algorithms. We are now embarking upon our Animated Storybooks unit and will have great fun creating short stories using sound effects, backgrounds, animation and text. Your children all have their Purple Mash login information in their reading records and so can access activities at home.



In Geography our learning has taken us on four different world journeys starting with their local area and then exploring coastal, rainforest, dry (desert) and world city locations. The children have been looking at similarities and contrasts between cities, countries and continents.

In RE after half term we will be finding out about the religion of Judaism - understanding who is Jewish, what do they believe and how do they live. Year 1 will have a visit from Mrs Combe, a member of Bedfordshire Schools Trust, who will be coming in to talk to the children about how her and her family celebrate their Jewish faith.

Our Music unit is called "How does music make our world a better place". The children are exploring sounds and finding out that sounds are made up of high and low sounds, long and short sounds, quiet and loud sounds. We have a range of peripatetic teachers who offer instrumental tuition at Gothic Mede. If you would like your child to receive instrumental tuition please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Glindon in the school office.

We continue to further your children's understanding of their feelings and emotions through our discussion on Values and our use of Kipsy stories. This term we will focus on the following emotions: feeling okay, feeling love and feeling angry. If you feel that your child is struggling emotionally please do not hesitate to discuss this with their class teacher. Emotional wellbeing is always at the forefront of our care for your child.

Despite the recent cold weather, we have been having lots of fun in both outdoor and indoor PE this term. The children are practising ball skills in their outdoor PE lessons with a focus on catching and throwing. These skills will then be furthered as they find ways to send and receive a variety of PE equipment. In indoor PE this term we are creating dances based on the themes of Pirates and On Safari. Could we make a plea again that if your child has lace-up trainers please can you teach them how to tie their laces. If they find this too difficult - velcro is a great alternative.

Finally, thank you so much for all the amazing support you have been giving your children with their learning. We are delighted by the commitment the children have shown to completing homework - this is having a real impact on the consolidation of their school learning. We have also noticed that children who are reading regularly at home are gaining better fluency and comprehension skills than their peers. Please remember to write in your child's reading record when they have read at home.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Pupil Learning Conferences (formerly Parents' Evenings) on 29th February and 5th March. Your child will have written their interim report and will be talking to you about their progress this year and their next steps.

We wish you all a very happy spring term.

Mrs Oestreicher and Miss O'Gorman