

# Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We are excited to begin our Autumn term of learning together. Below is an overview of the core learning that we will be focusing on this half term as part of our lessons.

For extra information, please see the attached Knowledge Organisers and visit our class page on the school website and Tapestry for the younger children. This will be updated regularly with photos and links to support learning at home.

## English

We will start the term with the much-loved story The Gruffalo. Children will explore the repetitive language in the story and compare it with other similar texts. Younger pupils will focus on retelling the story through drama, puppets and simple story maps. The older pupils will extend their basic sentence structures through a focus on key grammatical concepts, including:

- Expanded noun phrases
- Tenses
- Different sentence types
- Apostrophes

## Phonics

Daily phonics sessions will continue using the Little Wandle programme to support reading and spelling skills.

## Handwriting

Handwriting practice will take place three times a week using the Nelson Handwriting programme. In Year 2, we now focus on developing cursive handwriting, whereas Reception pupils will focus on tracing simple line patterns and shapes and use 'Dough Disco' to build strength in their young finger joints!

## Maths

In Maths, we will continue to follow the Power Maths scheme. This half term, children in Year 2 will:

- Work with numbers up to 100, focusing on place value
- Solve addition and subtraction equations
- Identify and describe the properties of shapes

Children in Year 1 will:

- Work with number to 10 (including the part whole model)
- Addition and Subtraction within 10
- 2d and 3D shape and their properties

In Reception the focus will be on:

- Securing numbers to 5
- Spatial awareness (prepositions and position)
- 2d and 3D shape

Children will develop number sense through a wide range of resources, including part-whole models, tens frames, counters, number lines, rekenrek, and bead strings.

Active Learn logins will also be sent home so that children can access additional practice and activities online.

## Science – The Human Body

Our Science topic this half term is The Human Body. Children will learn about:

- The Skeleton: how bones give our bodies shape, protect vital organs, and help us move
- Muscles: their role in movement and supporting the skeleton
- The Digestive System: how food gives us energy, how nutrients are absorbed, and how waste is removed
- The Circulatory System: the role of the heart in pumping blood through arteries and veins
- Microorganisms: what they are, how some are helpful, and how others (such as bacteria) can be harmful

This builds on last year's learning about living things and their needs.

## Geography – Spatial Sense

In Geography, children will develop their understanding of maps and the role of cartographers. They will:

- Learn about simple map symbols and their meanings
- Use ambitious geographical vocabulary in speaking and writing
- Draw their own maps and sketches of areas

## History – The Romans (Autumn 2)

Our History focus this term is the Roman invasion of Britain. Children will learn about:

- The significant figures Julius Caesar and Emperor Claudius
- How the Roman army was organised and why it was successful
- Boudicca's rebellion against the Romans

They will also explore continuity and change by comparing life in Britain before, during, and after Roman rule. Finally, they will discover how the Romans influenced our language, writing, roads, and towns.

## Art – Colour and Shape

In Art, children will explore colour and shape through the work of famous artists. They will:

- Revisit colour mixing and brushwork with Kandinsky's Squares with Concentric Circles
- Study Paul Klee's Three Houses to understand shape and colour
- Create organic shapes using natural objects, then form them into sculptures inspired by Alexander Calder

## P.E.

PE will take place on Friday mornings.

- Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE uniform on these days.
- For safety, children must not wear jewellery during PE sessions.

This half term we will focus on developing listening and coordination skills, as well as building confidence in teamwork activities. This will be lead by our PE specialist Mrs A Mooney.

We look forward to an exciting term of learning and discovery. Thank you, as always, for your continued support with your child's education.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Beckett and Mrs Middleton