

Birkwood Primary School

YEAR 1 'Leopards' NEWSLETTER September 2011 (Autumn Term)

Dear Parents,

Hello, and welcome to a new school year. The Year 1 Leopards have made a great start to their school year, and they are adapting well to the new routines. We are very proud of them! I am very pleased to say that our classroom looks wonderful after being decorated and refitted during the summer.

Our topic for this term is '**Knights and Castles**'. We will be looking at the topic in both a factual and fictional way. We will be researching historical facts whilst using stories such as 'Cinderella' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to inspire our role play and writing. We hope to arrange an educational visit some time during this term to support this topic and children's understanding.

Below is a summary of the areas we intend to cover over the next term:

Literacy/Creative Curriculum

During this term there will be a huge focus on reading and sound work. We will also be concentrating on handwriting, not only the correct formation of letters but, also of numbers.

Spellings will be taken from our topic, sound work and high frequency words.

Spelling quizzes are held on a Friday and new spellings sent out. Quiz results will be recorded in your child's book so that you can follow their progress.

During our Literacy sessions we will be writing lists, instructions, poems, invitations, cards and weekly 'news'.

Reading is a very important area in our curriculum and the children have lots of opportunities to read in the classroom every day. Please bring book bags and reading books to school every day. With their home reading book there is a reading record book; please write your own comments or concerns about your child's reading. This is a good means of communication between school and home, so please do not be afraid to use it.

Mathematics

We will be ordering, adding and subtracting numbers; counting accurately; getting to know number bonds to 10; finding one more and one less; looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We will be using lots of new Maths vocabulary and beginning to learn our 2 times table.

ICT

The children will be learning how to log themselves on to the computer. Use a drawing programme to create pictures and learn how to use Microsoft word. Online Maths and Literacy games will be used to help and support them in their learning and also help make their learning fun!

Art/Design Technology

The children will have opportunities to practise their artistic skills and use various art techniques to produce a variety of pictures, puppets and other art forms related to

Autumn, Halloween, Bonfire Night, Christmas and Knights and Castles, for example designing our own and class Coat of Arms.

Music

The children will be learning familiar and new songs as well as how to keep a beat.

PE

Our focus for this half term is gymnastics, the children will be performing forward and backward rolls, as well as balance work. The children will also have dance sessions.

❖ **P.E sessions and dance sessions are on Wednesdays and Thursdays.** We would appreciate it very much if you could ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit on these days. Thank you.

Homework

The children will be given homework on a Friday and this should be brought back to school the following week please. Homework will consist of spellings, reading and a piece of maths work. From time to time there may be other things such as handwriting for the children to practise. Again, we would appreciate your support in making sure that homework is completed.

There is a Homework Club that the children can attend to help complete their homework with support on hand, on Wednesday lunchtimes in the computer room.

Important dates for your diaries: -

❖ **Year 1 Leopards Class Assembly - Thursday 24th November 2011 at 2.45pm**

You are warmly invited to join us on this day.

We hope that this Newsletter has been useful and we feel sure that we can rely on your support throughout the year, however, if you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to call in and arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet.

With best wishes,

Mrs. Jayne Cattell
Year 1 Class Teacher

Mrs. Tracey White
Teaching Assistant