

# Birkwood Primary School

## YEAR 1 (Tigers) NEWSLETTER Autumn Term 2011

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to a new school year, we hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. I am really looking forward to teaching your children and have planned an exciting topic to start Year 1. As your children have moved to Year 1 and become tigers they have encountered a lot of changes to their school day; but they are coping really well and have made a super start to the year, we are extremely pleased and proud of them.

As a new teacher at Birkwood School I appreciate the welcome I have received and hope you will continue to join me in working together to support your children.

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

### **Literacy/Creative Curriculum**

This Autumn term we will be making links between Literacy and most of the other subjects in our curriculum through our topic 'Castles and Knights'. The children are very excited already about this topic and have been spending time in our role play area which is set up as a castle.

During Literacy sessions we will be looking at traditional tales, writing labels and captions and also studying some poetry.

There will be lots of reading and sound work throughout the year. This term, spellings will mostly be taken from sound work and high frequency words.

Spellings will to be given out and a quiz will take place on Fridays.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of reading and the children have lots of opportunities to read in the classroom every day. We will try very hard to change home reading books regularly and we appreciate your support in encouraging the children to bring their book bags every day. Please write your own comments or concerns about your child's reading in their reading records, as this is a good way for us to communicate.

### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics this term, we will be concentrating on counting accurately, as well as ordering, adding and subtracting. We will also be spending some time on number bonds to 10, finding one more and one less and shapes. We will be using lots of new mathematical vocabulary and will even be learning some of the times tables.

### **ICT**

The children will be learning how to log themselves on to the computer. They will have the opportunity to use a drawing programme to create pictures as well as use Microsoft word to develop their typing skills. Online Numeracy and Literacy games will be used to support the children in their learning.

### **Music**

The children will be learning familiar and new songs whilst learning how to keep a beat. Music is a great tool to develop children's learning as they are having fun and learning new skills.

### **Art/Design Technology**

The children will have opportunities to practise their artistic skills and use a wide range of techniques and materials. They will produce a variety of pictures, puppets and other art forms related to our topic.

### **PE**

The focus for this half term is gymnastics and multi skills. In gymnastics the children will be performing short sequences including balances. Multi - skills consists of throwing and catching different size balls and using beanbags and hoops. The children will also have dance sessions.

PE sessions are on a **Wednesday** and a **Friday**; we would appreciate it very much if your child has the appropriate PE kit on these days. Thank you.

### **Homework**

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

### **Important dates for your diaries:**

#### **❖ Our Class Assembly - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

This is an opportunity for the children to tell you what they have been learning about in class. The children will hopefully come up with most of the ideas and will have the final decision on what they show you. You are very welcome to join us!

We hope that this Newsletter has been useful and thank you for your support so far this term. 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,

Miss A. Betts  
Year 1 Tigers ClassTeacher

Mrs. J. Porter                      Mrs L. Baker  
Cover Supervisor      Teaching Assistant