

Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and wish you all a very Happy New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the Christmas gifts and your contributions over the past term. Last term the children produced some amazing work and hopefully this term will be no different.

That said plans have had to change again with the ever-changing nature of the pandemic that we are in. There is a lot of uncertainty around how long this might go on and how the education might look while we are in this situation. Hopefully this newsletter will answer some of the questions you have.



It goes without saying that whether it is face to face teaching or supporting home learning I will endeavour to provide every child with an amazing experience of Year 2 at Wickhambrook, and as always if you have any questions, queries or concerns please drop me a message and I will try and get them sorted.

What will this term look like?

During the term I am going to try my absolute hardest to provide the children with the same curriculum content that they would have experienced within school. There will be plenty of clips, presentations as well as lots of my own videos to support the children with as much learning as possible. They will continue learning new content as well as revisiting topics to embed the learning they have already uncovered.

Zoom meetings

We will be having daily zoom meetings to give the children a chance to discuss their learning and the lesson content. This will enable them to ask questions and test their knowledge as well as giving me the opportunity to check their understanding and provide them with the ideas for depth, ensuring that they get the best out of this time at home.

The last thing we at Wickhambrook want is the children or yourselves worrying over the work or not understanding and feeling like there is no support. This is a juggling act for everyone and we will provide as much support as we can. Hopefully the Zoom calls will contribute to that.

Expectations

The biggest challenge we faced in September, after the first lockdown, was behaviour for learning. The children had forgotten how to focus for sustained periods, how to be resilient and how to care about their work. I will be looking for these standards when looking at the work on Showbie. I absolutely understand how hard this is on everyone and we are all going to manage the days differently, and believe me I know there will be good days and tricky ones. If you need support with how your child is approaching their work please drop me a message and I can make a phone call or even do a little home visit if you'd prefer.

Curriculum coverage

English

As normal, this term the children will be covering a wide range of literacy techniques and interacting with many different text types, including:

- Poetry
- Writing a recount
- Formal invitations
- Non-chronological reports
- Stories from other cultures

I will continue to include as much reading for the children and there will be many videos popping up to enable them to enjoy and experience story telling. The children enjoyed our reading at school and I would hate for them to lose that habit.

Reading

Linking nicely to this, the children are encouraged to read as much as possible at home too. Reading for pleasure is an extremely important skill and something that I, myself really love. Alongside this letter I have attached my Spring reading list. This includes all the books that I recommended for the Autumn but has had many more books added for the children to explore. I have tried to include a range of texts from fiction, non-fiction and poetry so that the children have the broadest possible experience. Half the battle to reading enjoyment is finding the right book that captures the imagination.

Curriculum subjects

Science

In our science this term the children will be revisiting their knowledge that we began exploring back in September on living things and habitats. Based on research that recalling knowledge regularly helps to embed it for a longer period, we have made time for the children to revisit and reapply subject matter. The children will cover the features that make something a living thing, habitats and food chains.

Geography/History

We will be focussing on Geography the first half term then moving to History after half term.

Initially, we will be looking at the UK and its countries and capitals then building that up to look beyond Europe to Kenya in Africa. The children will compare our country to that of one on a different continent and they will compare London to Nairobi the capital city of Kenya.

After half term, we will be looking at Kings and Queens. I loved doing this topic last year as it covers some of the lesser-known monarchs of England and their contributions to the way we live now.

Art & DT

Before Christmas, the children had started their work on shading techniques and how to get the best out of their pencils when it comes to this method of art. We will be continuing this and looking at artists who use these techniques in their work. We will also be looking at different materials in how we can use different methods to strengthen these in order to make a chair for Baby Bear! (We don't want it collapsing under him)

PE

In PE last term we were looking at throwing and catching. I would encourage the children to keep practising these skills as they are used in countless sports. This term, however, we will be moving on to using our feet and controlling a ball with our feet. I will be recording the key learning just as I would have given an input in school.

Alongside this, if it is possible, I would encourage the children to go for a walk around their local area. Aside from being great exercise this gives an opportunity to release the brain a little bit and maybe spot somethings that you didn't know were there. It is chillier this time around but it is important to still have these breaks.

TT Rockstars & Spelling Shed

Finally, we will still be using TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed to supplement our learning. These are great tools and provide the children with different skills through and interactive medium. Before Christmas, the children were really getting to grips with their 2, 5 and 10 times table and I don't want them to lose this knowledge. On Showbie I will put up some of the written sheets that we did each week so that the children have to opportunity to continue with these as well.



This will be another tricky term but we will come through it in true Wickhambrook style. As I've said, I will try to include as much media and support as I can to help the learning. Please make home learning work for you. I stressed in the last lockdown to my class, it is no good if you burn yourselves out. Be flexible, take each day as it comes.

Covid will not break us at Wickhambrook!!

Take care

Mr Thomson