

Class 1 Summer Term 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a super Easter break. This term we will be working under the title of 'Enchanted Woodland' for our topic. I am really looking forward to our final term of the year. It's always a busy one but also a fun one!

Topic

The children are really excited about our new topic 'Enchanted Woodland'. We are so lucky to have many woodland and forest areas around Armitage. If you could take the children to explore the woodland during the topic, it would really help the children visualise and draw on their own experiences during their work. I would love to see photographs of these trips and I know the children will love showing these pictures to their friends. You could email me the pictures to my school address then the children can show them on the whiteboard.

During this topic they will be finding out about plants and animals that live in woodlands as well as imaginary creatures such as fairies and elves. We will be creating non-fiction books on the iPads using the information that they have found out and will also be making sculptures from natural materials in a similar style to Andrew Goldsworthy. Whilst doing this the children will learn how to take digital photos of their work. In D&T the children will be designing and making some miniature habitats and homes and looking at the gardening designs of Capability Brown. At the end of the topic the children use a set of instructions to plan and carry out their own woodland picnic. During our history and geography lessons, the children will be learning about ancient woodlands, finding out about events that happened a long time ago and also creating their own simple maps using a key. In French the children will be learning how to greet each other and ask and respond to simple questions about themselves. In RE they will be exploring places of worship and they will also be learning about how religious stories are used by religious communities. In ICT, the children will be starting to learn about Coding, Technology outside of school and also Spreadsheets!

English

In English, we will be continuing to use *The Write Stuff* by Jane Considine. This term, they will be using 'The Last Stop on Market Street', 'Little Red Riding Hood' texts and the non-fiction text 'Bold Women in Black History'. We will use these texts as a stimulus to then write some longer pieces of writing of their own. Alongside this, they will begin to join their handwriting, use capital letters and full stops consistently in their work and begin to use suffixes such as *er*, *est*, *ed*, and *ing*, for example *singing*, *hunted*, *greatest*. They will also continue to practise using common exception words in their writing.

In Phonics, the children will continue to work through the phases of phonics using our new Animaphonics scheme. During the week beginning 12th June, the children in Class 1 will be completing their Phonics Screening Test. This is a Government test that the children have to complete. It is an individual test, asking the children to read 40 words using the phonics sounds that children learn in Reception and Year 1.

The children will still be coming home with spellings on a Friday each week. Please practise these words at home in a variety of ways. Examples of how to practise them was sent home at the beginning of the year - if you would like another copy of this, please email me and I can send you one home.

As the children's reading ability and understanding progress so does our story time. This term, we will be reading *The Magic Faraway Tree* at the end of each day. From past experience, the children love this story and I am sure that this class will be the same.

Maths

In Maths the children will be reading, recognising and using numbers up to 100 and they will be separating numbers into tens and ones. They will be calculating the answers to larger addition and subtraction questions and in doing so we will be recording how they worked them out. The children will share objects into equal groups and will be multiplying using diagrams and arrays. They will also be exploring fractions by finding half and a quarter of objects, shapes and amounts.

The children will also be practising their recall of basic skills. These skills include number bonds to 10 and 20, doubles and halves of facts to 20, counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s and odd and even numbers. There are lots of websites that you can practise these skills including:

Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds (topmarks.co.uk),
Coconut Odd or Even - Topmarks
Daily 10 - Mental Maths Challenge - Topmarks
White Rose 1 Minute Maths App
Numbots Game

The children will also continue to bring home Learn Its sheets so that they can keep using and improving their mental recall skills. They will be tested on these on a Thursday. The aim of the test is to complete as many as they can within 90 seconds.

Science

Throughout this term the children will be exploring the topics of 'Plants and Animals'. They will learn to identify and name a variety of common plants and trees and they will be able to sort trees into the two main categories; deciduous and evergreen. Whilst doing this they will also be able to name the main parts of a plant. Our main focus when learning about animals will be categorising animals into reptiles, mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and insects. We will also be learning what these animals eat and use carnivore, herbivore and omnivore to further group them. There are so many children in the class particularly interested in plants and animals. If you do any planting at home or have any favourite animal information books - we would love to see them and share them with the class. Please feel free to email me photos if the children would like to share them with the class.

PE

The children will continue to have PE on a Monday and a Friday. This term the children will be taking part in Athletics and they will also be developing their dance skills. Please let me know if your child is unable to take part in PE by sending in a letter or sending me an email. Also, can you please make sure that they come into school in the appropriate PE kit. The children will also need to be able to take their own earrings out if they have them pierced or not wear earrings on a Monday and a Friday.

Reading and Homework

It is vital that the children are reading their home reading books at home. 5/10 minutes 3 times a week is much better than half an hour once a week. The children need to practise regularly in order to make progress in reading. Please record in their reading diaries what they have read and how they have got on. We use what you write as evidence towards assessing where the children are in their reading throughout the year. The children will be continuing to read on their set reading day but we would like the children to bring their book in everyday though, as we do have extra opportunities to read with a reading buddy or with a member of staff.

As previously mentioned the children will come home with their spellings and Learn It's for homework each week on a Friday so please help them to practise these. Practising these for 5 or 10 minutes each day is much better than trying to learn them just on one evening before the test. The children will be tested on both of these on a Thursday. We will no longer be doing Show and Tell in class on a Friday. Instead, if the children have certificates, trophies special awards or events that they have taken part in, they are invited to bring these in on a Friday and we will share them in Gold Assembly.

Thank you for all your support. If you have any questions, enquiries or concerns, please email me on staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk or contact me via the school office on 01543 490261.

Mrs L Astley