

Bodsham Church of England Primary School

Butterflies' class newsletter – Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are beginning 2019 already and the Butterflies are a third of the way through their first year at school! All of the children have settled into school and its routines beautifully; we would like to thank their families for their encouragement and support. The next two terms are always a wonderful time in Reception. The children start building upon the skills they have learned in the Autumn and move on to perfecting and applying them in a variety of contexts.

Topics for the next term...

We will start January with our next topics 'Children's Choice' and 'People Who Help Us' as well as joining in the whole school topic of space.

If you (or someone you know) have a job where you help people in any way and you would be happy to come in to talk to us, we would love to hear from you! We will be visiting Canterbury Fire Station and we will also be comparing policing now and in the past with a visit from some officers to Bodsham and a trip to the Westgate towers in Canterbury.

The 'Children's Choice' topic is a really special one; as we learn more about what each child is interested in. Each child is an expert in something and it is brilliant for their self-confidence and self-awareness to be able to share their passions with their peers. The way the children have explained their special objects and books has been inspirational and we hope to cover as many interests as we can as part of this topic as well as the topics in the coming terms.

Our RE for term 3 is linked to 'Special Stories' from the New Testament. We will study some of the stories that Jesus told and what they can teach Christians and non-Christians too.

After half term we will move on to 'Lifecycles'. We will watch frogspawn as it evolves and hatch butterfly eggs; we will also be growing some potatoes and other plants. We will visit the school pond and hopefully we will go to see some Spring lambs too! Our RE for term 4 is linked to Easter so new life will be an important theme linking the two topics.

Helping with learning at home

In Butterflies as much of our learning as possible will link to the topics above. Anything you can do in terms of discussion and activities at home relating to these topics would be wonderful. There are also some things that you can do relating to Literacy and Numeracy, in addition to the fortnightly Home Learning tasks.

In Numeracy our learning will continue on into the teen numbers during the next terms. We will send home some flashcards to help you practise, but any way in which you can weave teen numbers into daily life will be beneficial. This could be as simple as spotting house numbers or counting large quantities of berries and seeing if you can write the number before you eat any!

In Literacy the biggest thing that you can do is to read together. This includes you reading to your child, your child reading to you, or sharing a book together. As well as practising the skills of reading it helps instil a love of texts which can last a lifetime. You can also practise phonics and 'tricky words' explicitly using the flashcards which will make decoding easier for your child.

We will continue to change books only when we know that they have been finished; so please write in the contact book so that we know when it is time for a new book. Each child reads daily at school in phonics as well as every other day in guided reading. We read the book banded books with each child once a week and use this as a chance to gauge whether the level they are reading is appropriate. However, if you feel that the books your child is bringing home are too easy or too tricky please let us know as we value your input too. **Book change days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

PE

Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school. We have PE with Charlie on a Tuesday and an additional active session every Friday in the hall. For PE this term we will be learning some simple skills from netball. Our lessons will usually be outside so you may wish to add some jogging bottoms to your child's kit. After half term we will be doing gymnastics. We have another Year R fun day to look forward to as well.

Stay and play

We will be holding another stay and play session very soon, details to follow!

Please do feel free to come and see me in between events and parents' evenings if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Billingsley

Class Teacher