



Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday 8th January 2024

I wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope you've had a lovely holiday and are ready and raring for an exciting term ahead. I am looking forward to meeting you and working closely in partnership with you all. I have planned many exciting opportunities for your children to learn, across the curriculum and beyond. Here is an outline of what to expect in the Spring Term.

English - We are starting off with *The Gigantic Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy. A perfect start to take the new year, and class changes, in our stride as the moral of the story is the importance and eventual victory of teamwork and unity. Later in the term, we will move on to *Little People Big Dreams* by Malala Yousafzai containing figures from many different experiences, backgrounds and journeys, to develop children's empathy and their understanding of the world. Through reading these texts, exploring a range of writing activities and drama, we will develop our description and narrative writing skills. Our class novels for this term are *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak and *Mr Majelka* by Humphrey Carpenter.

Maths – We are starting the term with geometry. Year 1 will learn to recognise common 2D and 3D shapes and be able to explain simple turns (for example, a half-turn). Year 2 will learn to identify and describe the properties of a range of 2D shapes, including the number of sides and lines of symmetry and 3D shapes, including the number of edges, faces and vertices.

Science – We will begin this term by taking a nature walk to observe changes in seasons and weather patterns and we will keep a diary to use at a later date when creating our own seasonal weather reports. For the majority of this term, our focus will be plants. During this topic we will identify and name a variety of wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Geography – This term, we will be developing our understanding of the weather, looking at seasons in the UK, allowing us to identify seasonal and daily weather patterns, and why these patterns happen. We will also be exploring global weather using maps, atlases and globes. During this topic, we will also have a visitor from Mountain rescue to support our learning on the importance of the weather, and how it affects human behaviour.

History - We will be exploring the topic of activism this term, looking at how and why rights have changed throughout history. To support our learning, we will study key figures such as Emmeline Pankhurst and Rosa Parks as examples of national and international achievements of activism, and how this change happens over time.

PE – In PE, we will be developing our games skills. We will become familiar with how to play in and lead a team, with a focus on sportsmanship. Later in the term we will move on to gymnastics with a particular focus on a variation of rolls.

Headteacher: Mrs Gail Bowskill

Caton Primary School, Broadacre, Caton, Lancashire. LA2 9NH

T 01524 770104 E bursar@caton.lancs.sch.uk W catonprimary.school

Computing – We will be using digital photography to track changes over time in plants linking to our science topic. Children will learn to recognise that different devices can be used to capture photographs and will gain experience capturing, editing, and improving photos. Later on in the term, we will focus on digital writing and we will produce a printed booklet.

Music – This term we will be enhancing our understanding of melody, timbres, and dynamics. We will be learning and singing melodies with accuracy and using letter notation, select instruments with different timbres, develop our ability to show a range of emotions in our voices, and eventually compose and perform a piece of music using different dynamic levels.

Art - In art this term, we will be developing our ability to recognise stories and messages within artwork, and an understanding of why it may have been made. We will also be using our own artwork to explain ideas and opinions about our work, and evaluate one another's art.

DT – In DT, we will be designing. We will focus on learning the importance of clear design criteria and turning 2D nets into 3D structures, to build a structure that is fit for purpose.

PSHE – We will learn and discuss the importance of online safety and our shared responsibility to care for our wider world including both people and the environment. Later on in the term we will delve into questions around economic wellbeing with a focus on our aspirations, future ideas for work and our career prospects.

RE – Together, we will be discussing and exploring two big questions. Firstly, we will study Islamic beliefs “Why do Muslims believe it is important to obey God?”. Followed by a study of Christianity and “What unites the Christian community?”.

PE days

PE will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times. If it needs to be washed we will send it home for a freshen up.

Outdoor learning

We will be taking our learning outdoors often, especially during forest school days (Monday PM), so please send in a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

Snacks

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

Homework

- Reading: We expect the children to read at home for at least 10 minutes every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Please sign your child's reading recording to confirm that this has taken place. This will be checked daily.
- Spellings: Year 2 children will continue to receive 5 spellings to learn weekly for a spelling test on Friday. Spellings for the whole term will be available on the class page of the website. Please support your child in learning them. They will be assessed regularly.
- Phonics: Please support your child with regular phonics practice at home. Year 1 will receive phonics sound cards and tricky word cards to practise regularly at home.
- Times tables: Please continue to support your child with their 2s, 5s and 10 times tables using their individual Times Table Rockstar account. Please let me know if you need help accessing this.

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I look forward to working with you throughout this term. If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by the school's new email or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.

Best wishes,
Miss Alexandra Livesey