



Pear Class News

Summer 2

Firstly, a big welcome back to our final half term in Reception! We do hope you've had a lovely break and relaxed in the fabulous sunshine - we sure have! Although some children have returned to Pear class, we will still continue to deliver learning virtually via our weekly blog. As mentioned Miss Whitlow will continue to upload activities onto the blog on a weekly basis, whilst Mrs Horne-Smith is teaching our 'key worker' children in school. With this in mind, it may be difficult for Mrs Horne-Smith to respond quickly to emails so with this being the case, any queries or questions you may have, please drop Miss Whitlow an email and she will get back to you at her earliest convenience.

We do ask that you still engage with the material online, if your child is not in school, as this is the 'final push' for the children to consolidate all of their prior knowledge and apply their skills in all areas, before they transition into year 1. Wow - now there's a scary thought! How quickly has our time in Reception gone?

If you haven't already done so, please do send us some examples of the children's work. Before we outline the learning for the half term we would like to say a massive thank you for all your continued support over the past few weeks.

Our email addresses are as follows: **bethany.whitlow@school360.co.uk** **laurie.hornesmith1@school360.co.uk**

This term our main topics to focus on will be: 'Seaside and Jungle.' The children will be encouraged to explore the outdoors, whether this be at the beach or in your garden - this may be a little easier than last half term, due to lockdown guidelines being slightly more relaxed.

Read, Write, Inc

Read Write Inc will continue to be covered on the blog weekly, as well as in school, for those children returning. Mrs Grimes and Miss Whitlow will be teaching those sessions Monday- Wednesday, so it would be helpful if you could carry on this routine to allow for consistency for when the children return back in year 1.

Last term we monitored the progress of RWI through evidence online - this came through writing letters for the 'giant' in our focus story Jack and the Beanstalk and we also had lots of children practising new words using new sounds too! This was very pleasing to see and we do hope this continues through the next half term.

This half term we will finish learning the set 2 sounds. Miss Whitlow will add 2 new sounds on the blog every week. So we ensure that all children know the set 2 sounds before starting in year 1. Learning new sounds will expose the children to new words and allow them to use 'Fred fingers' to decode the unfamiliar words. Again, I thank you for your continuous support and encouragement, especially with practising the RWI sounds at home. Most children are now familiar with 'red words,' words that are just read and not sounded out and blended together. We will be setting weekly sentence challenges where the children have to utilise a red word, their weekly sounds and 'hold a sentence'. This will be explained in more depth on the blog next week - when Miss Whitlow will upload the first 'RWI challenge.'

Mathematics

We will still be continuing to follow last half term's target of ensuring that most children gain a solid understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond. We will focus upon using those numbers to practise and extend our confidence and independence to add and subtract, finding missing number and when facing number problems. In addition to this we will be using money to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. This will be in the form of an ice-cream shop! This half term a lot of our mathematical work will come through our topic work, especially when learning about sea sides and jungle animals. We will be consolidating our learning based around capacity, weight and estimation. We will also be exploring data collection and using this information to record in graphs about what our favourite animals are. The children will be touching upon grouping and sharing again by identifying animals and using simple classification to compare and identify the differences between them.

Topic Led Communication, Reading and Writing

Our seaside and jungle topics will offer lots of scope for research, reading, discussing, finding out and creating. We'll enjoy using non-fiction texts and the internet (google maps) to find information to answer questions around sea sides and jungle habitats. We will be learning two songs '*Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside*' and '*Walking through the Jungle*' as a basis for written, oral and creative work. We will be studying stories such as *Winnie the Witch by the Seaside* and *Rumble in the Jungle*, to encourage creative, imaginative and descriptive vocabulary in our writing and as the basis for fun and activity led learning at home.

The World and Creative Work

This term we will be exploring topics such as 'seaside and jungle.' These topics are all about investigation and we will be able to use simple classification to compare and identify the differences between jungle and seaside animals. We will use this information to write simple facts about them, create a summer bucket list and use our imagination to write short and simple stories about the seaside and jungle.

Within our 'seaside topic' we hope to research seaside towns from the past and see any differences and similarities to now. We want to compare a seaside town and to where we go to school in Alnwick - what differences do we notice between the two. We will be making and creating our own responses to music inspired by Debussy's *La Mer*. Making our own boats and testing different materials to find out which materials work best when thinking of floating and sinking. We will be designing and making 3D mobiles using seaside treasures.

Moving on to our jungle topic where we will be exploring jungle animals and their habitats - learning new vocabulary such as '*camouflage*' and '*habitat*'. Researching jungle weather climates and where different animals may live. There will be opportunities for lots of painting and collaging as we keep to our jungle theme during our creative work this half term. We will be drawing and painting a range of animals and seaside creatures and using warm and cold colours in response to music. We will be setting up our own campsite and using role play to help us get into different characters! Alongside this we would love to know what you would take with you to the jungle- what essential items would you need. These are just a flavour of ideas that we have planned during the next half term - there will be more added along the way.

The Physical Stuff

It would be fantastic if you continued to encourage your child to independently dress themselves in the morning, focussing on zips and buttons as well as putting their own shoes on the correct feet.

Finally, during this half term we will be putting greater emphasis on the children's fine motor skills and ensuring that they are more controlled. Correcting improper pencil grip and letter formation is vital so that bad habits are not formed. If you are unsure how to explain this to your child, there are many videos online that will walk you through the process and terminology suitable for this age range.

Thank you for all of your support - most of all have fun with your children as that is how we all learn best!

With kind regards,

Beth Whitlow, Laurie Horne-Smith

(Pear Class Teachers)