

## Kirkstead Class Newsletter – Summer 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and sunny half-term break.

It is hard to believe we are now beginning our final term of the school year. I am incredibly proud of the children and the fantastic progress, maturity and independence they have shown so far. As we start to think about transition, our main focus this term is to ensure every child feels confident, secure and fully prepared for their move into Year 1.

### Our Topic: Around the World



This term, we are excited to begin our new topic, **“Around the World.”** The children will enjoy exploring where they live, while also learning about different countries, cultures and customs from across the globe. Together, we will discover the seven continents and explore a range of habitats, using maps, globes, Google Earth and a variety of books to help bring our learning to life starting with Handa’s Surprise. This will support the children in

developing a deeper understanding of the world and the many wonderful places that people and animals call home.

### Understanding the World



In Understanding the World, our scientific learning will focus on exploring the beauty and wonder of nature all around us. The children will become little plant experts as we take part in hands-on summer fieldwork, identifying common wild and garden plants, learning about different types of trees, and discovering the parts of a flower.

### Religious Education



In RE this term, we will be exploring the question: **“If the world is special, how should we treat it?”** As a Church of England school, our daily life continues to be rooted in the Christian faith, while also helping children develop an understanding of the diverse world around them. We will be learning about how Christians and Muslims believe the natural world is a special place, exploring their creation stories and how these inspire people to care for it. Through this learning, the children will be encouraged to think about the importance of kindness, respect and looking after our world. They will begin to compare the Christian and Muslim creation stories, talk about why people believe the world is special, and consider simple ways we can all show care and respect for the natural world.

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development



In PSED, we will continue to develop the skills the children need as they prepare for their transition into Year 1. A strong focus will be placed on building positive friendships, working cooperatively with others and learning how to manage and resolve any conflicts in a calm and respectful way. The children will be encouraged to become more independent in their learning and play, practising important skills such as sharing, taking turns and making thoughtful choices. We will also support them in working towards simple goals,

developing perseverance, learning to wait patiently and beginning to regulate their own behaviour. Listening carefully and following instructions involving more than one step will be an important focus, helping to build confidence and readiness for more structured learning. Overall, we aim to ensure the children feel secure, capable and excited as they take their next steps into Year 1.

### **Expressive Arts & Design**



In Expressive Arts and Design, the children will have lots of opportunities to share their learning creatively. They will express their “Around the World” discoveries through music, using percussion instruments to create flowing water soundscapes while beginning to explore musical ideas such as pitch, sound quality and volume. Alongside this, the children will develop their drawing skills through a range of observational activities, encouraging them to look closely at the world around them and represent what they see with increasing detail and confidence.

### **Reading and Phonics**



The children will continue their daily phonics sessions. This term, they will continue to bring home a new decodable book every Friday, and we kindly ask that books are returned each Friday so they can be changed.

Please remember to record all reading in your child's Home School Record. Daily reading earns dojo points, which will go towards the dojo

shop in July.

Alongside their phonics book, children will continue to bring home a *sharing book* on Mondays and Wednesdays—perfect for enjoying together. They are also welcome to choose a favourite story from home if they prefer.

### **Mathematics**



In Maths this, we will be focusing on deepening the children's understanding of numbers up to 10 and building a secure foundation for future learning. The children will develop confidence in recalling number bonds to 10 and begin to explore number patterns, including recognising odd and even numbers and learning simple double facts.

We will also be comparing quantities within 10, using language such as greater than, less than and equal to, and practising recognising, naming and ordering numbers. Through a range of practical and engaging activities, the children will use one-to-one correspondence to count objects and actions accurately, while extending their counting beyond 20 and beginning to recognise patterns within the counting system. Alongside this, we will be developing their understanding of magnitude, helping them to gain a clearer sense of the size and value of numbers.

## Forest School



This term in Forest School, our “Around the World” topic will provide many exciting opportunities for the children to explore, discover, and care for the natural environment. We will be investigating different types of weather and how it affects our surroundings, as well as taking an active role in caring for our world through activities such as litter picking and discussions about environmental responsibility. The children will enjoy developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills through den building, creating shady shelters during the warmer weather, and observing the beauty of summer flowers. We will also be learning to identify a range of plants and trees by closely examining their leaves. A particularly special experience this term will be caring for live caterpillars and observing their transformation into butterflies, helping the children understand life cycles in a meaningful, hands-on way. In addition, we will be cooking on the open fire and revisiting our fire safety skills, giving the children valuable experiences in outdoor learning while building confidence and independence.

## P.E.



PE will continue to take place every Tuesday with JB Coaching. This term, the children will be preparing for Sports Day while developing and refining their core sporting skills. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their named PE kit on this day. Unless they are attending Multi Sports Club, children will be expected to change back into their school uniform afterwards, so please make sure their uniform and shoes are in school and clearly labelled.

## Homework

Thank you for all the support you give your children with their learning at home. Homework will continue to be sent home each Friday in their homework folder, and we welcome it back anytime up to the following Thursday. We really appreciate your help in building these routines and celebrating the children's growing independence.

## Drop Off & Pick Up

If someone different will be collecting your child, please let us know.

We are looking forward to a wonderful Summer term ahead. The children are already showing such enthusiasm, confidence and independence in their learning, and it has been a joy to see how much they have grown this year. We are excited to watch them continue to flourish and shine as the term goes on. Thank you so much for your continued support—it truly makes a difference and helps us create a happy, positive and successful final term for everyone.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Allitt, Miss Haines & Mrs Darici