



Ruby Class Newsletter
Thorpe Church of England Primary School
Faith, Love and Excellence
Spring Term February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers of Ruby Class,

Welcome back! We hope that you all enjoyed a restful week with your families. We have a busy half term ahead of us with lots of exciting learning planned!

Key dates:

Monday 4th March - Virtual Book Fair

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - dress up as a favourite character for the day. Reading River after school.

Monday 11th March - KS1 Author visit

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day - wear something red.

Thursday 21st March (4.30-7pm) and Tuesday 26th March (3.20-6pm) - Parents' Evening

Thursday 28th March - Break up for Easter 1.15pm No Owl Club

Monday 15th April - Return to school

Design and Technology - This half term we will be making moving vehicles. Please can your child bring in an **old shoe box** or **cereal box** into school for this project.

Save the date - Our Brooklands Museum trip is on **Wednesday 3rd July**. More details to follow nearer the time.

READING

Well done to all the children who are regular readers. We do a daily diary check so please continue to indicate when you have supported your child with their reading. ☺ Please listen to your child read as often as possible and ask questions about the book that they are reading to help develop their reading skills and comprehension. We welcome comments about the school book your child is reading and also any other books they are reading. It is so interesting to see what they are choosing to read for pleasure. Don't forget to visit your local libraries and role model by reading yourself. There is always lots going on and many books to take home and enjoy.

PHONICS

Children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons.

Please continue to bring in your child's red spelling book on **Mondays**. The children will bring these back home on **Tuesdays** with the class phonics focus for the week and examples of words containing the focus sounds. Read and write them with your child, along with others you can think of. It would also be really beneficial to get your child to write some of these words within a sentence. They can do this in their spelling books or on paper/in a notebook at home.

Children may also bring home an 'I can blend' sheet. They need to practise reading the words on the sheet, segmenting and blending the sounds. Again, you may encourage your child to write some of these words or a sentence containing these words - can they use the sound when spelling words? These words will include past, present and future sounds we will be covering. Once all the 'I can blend' sheets have been given, children can go back over and revise ones brought home previously.

Spelling Shed - using your EdShed log-in you can access Spelling Shed as well as Maths Shed. Going on Spelling Shed is a fun way for the children to learn to spell the common exception words.

OUR LEARNING

Our topic this half term is '*Amazing Animals*'.

In **English** this half term will be focusing on:

- Using conjunctions in our sentences (and, but, or, when, that, because, if)
- Using commas to write a list e.g. I am brown, grey or white.
- Using contractions e.g., haven't, it's, I'm
- Writing questions with an understanding of some different sentence types.

We will be writing riddles about animals and then will move onto writing non-chronological reports about animals, including creating our own imaginary animal!

We will also continue our daily phonics work, paired reading and work on comprehension exercises.

In **Maths** we will be working through our Mastering Number program daily to help secure arithmetic skills. We will also be working on:

- Dividing by 2, 5 and 10
- Measure, order and compare lengths and heights. Use the four operations for mass problems.
- Measure and compare mass, capacity and temperature. Use the four operations with volume and capacity.

Science: Why is an animals' habitat important? We will be exploring why most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants.

RE: Why do Christians call Jesus Saviour? Through this unit children will explore how Jesus was a friend and Saviour ('rescuer'), to people he met. Children will consider how meeting Jesus changed peoples' lives and reflect on how Jesus is still 'Saviour' for most Christians today. The concept of salvation will include a specific focus on the story of Zacchaeus' meeting with Jesus and the Easter narrative.

History: Why was Hilda Hewitt an important person? We will be learning about the history of flight and find out why Hilda Hewitt was an important local historical figure.

D&T: How can I make a vehicle that moves? We will be investigating, designing, making and evaluating a moving vehicle using wheels and axles.

PSHE and Citizenship: Health and Wellbeing - It's My Body. Please see below for further information.

PE: Get Set For PE: Gymnastics Children will learn, explore and develop basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using apparatus. They will develop skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling individually and in combination. They will create short sequences to include the use of shapes, levels and directions.

Real PE: Coordination and Counterbalance Children will develop fundamental movement skills to support balance with a partner, and coordination and control with a ball. Lessons will include focused skill development sessions together with cooperative and competitive games.

Computing: Programming - Algorithms and debugging: How do we create a computer game? Children will develop an understanding of what algorithms are, how to program them and how they can be developed to be more efficient through a range of unplugged and plugged-in activities.

Please look out for the **Homework Topic Grid** that will be sent home with activities the children can complete at home and bring in to share. These are linked to our learning in class.

Our **PE** lessons will continue to be on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** this half term. Please ensure that your child wears their **correct school uniform** PE Kit in school: Yellow T-shirts, Royal Blue or Navy Tracksuit

Trousers (no logos), Navy shorts, Trainers or Black Plimsoll shoes). Please ensure long hair is tied back and no earrings or watches are worn on PE days.

PSHE

Year 2 Ruby Class PSHE and Citizenship - Health and Wellbeing - It's My Body

Spring 2

It's My Body

In this unit of work, children will learn about how to take care of their body. The lessons look at key areas where children can make safer choices: their body, sleep and exercise, diet, cleanliness and substances. Children will learn facts about each of these areas and learn strategies to manage them, through a range of different activities. The important messages of choice and consent run through the unit. Children are encouraged to get help from trusted adults when necessary and taught how to do this.

We start each week with enquiry questions which will be used at the end of the unit to assess understanding:

Lesson 1: Who does your body belong to? What should you do if you feel unsafe or worried about something?

Lesson 2: What does exercise do to our bodies and is it important? What does sleep do to our bodies and is it important?

Lesson 3: What are germs and how can they be bad for us? How can we keep ourselves clean?

Lesson 4: What is a healthy diet? Why is it important to eat well?

Lesson 5: Why are some things dangerous to eat or drink and how can they harm us? How can we keep ourselves safe?

Lesson 6: What choices can you make to be healthier, safer and happier? How can we make better choices?

Children will be taking part in a range of activities, including the following:

Collaborative group tasks, drawing, sorting activities, guessing games, partner and group discussion, role play.

About PSHE and Citizenship Education

PSHE and Citizenship Education deals with personal, social, health and citizenship education. It is an important part of the school curriculum that aims to teach children the knowledge and skills that they need stay safe, happy and healthy, while preparing them for their life ahead.

We understand that some parts of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum involve exploring sensitive or controversial issues. That's why all adults involved in delivering the children's PSHE and Citizenship education will make every effort to establish a supportive and positive environment for learning.

Children will be given opportunities to ask any questions they may have, and adults in the class will set aside time to explore any questions or issues that are raised in the course of the lesson.

Healthy Snack

Please ensure your child's snack is a small healthy snack, preferably some fruit as they only have about 5/10 minutes snack time to eat it. Please only put water in their bottles.

As always, thank you so much for your support and please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you.

Mrs George and Mrs Graham