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April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a restful Easter break and we are looking forward to beginning our new topic this term, which is **Saving lives at Sea**.

We have outlined the topic plans for most of this coming term below. This will enable you to see what the children will be learning at school and at home.

In English, our core text for this term is 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson. Through the Talk for Writing approach, the children will focus on story starters, adjectives for different places and story endings. They will imitate the story, then move on to innovating it with their own ideas, before finally inventing their own journey story. At the end of the term, we will be moving on to poetry - writing acrostic poems about a theme of our own choice. We will be learning how to use nouns, verbs and adjectives in our poems and performing them to each other.

In Maths, we will be covering three units. The first unit will be 'Addition and Subtraction within 20'. Children have previously learnt about subtraction within 10 and this unit will provide the children with a greater understanding of addition and subtraction being the inverse of each other. The children will learn and revise a range of efficient subtraction strategies. The second unit will be 'Multiplication'. By the end of this unit, the children will understand multiplication as repeated addition, and build an understanding of the difference between equal and not equal groups. They will learn their 2's, 5's and 10's times tables through skip counting. The third unit will focus on halves and quarters. During this unit, the children will learn how to find halves and quarters of both shapes and groups of objects. This lays the foundations for later learning about fractions, so we will be working hard to ensure this learning is secure. We will also be practising our maths fluency to help us gain secure recall and automaticity with addition and subtraction.

In Science we will be naming and identifying a variety of animals, including sea creatures, and comparing, classifying and grouping them. We will also be learning about plastic pollution in our seas and how we can make a difference. In Geography, we will be revisiting our learning about the five different oceans and seven continents that make up the World, linking it to our core English text, The Snail and the Whale. In History, we are going to be learning about Grace Darling and the story of her life. The RNLI will be visiting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May to share the important role it plays, including sharing how to keep safe at the seaside.

In RE, we will be focusing on Creation. Children will hear the story of creation from the Bible. They will be able to recognise that 'Creation' is the beginning of the big story of the Bible. In PSHE and RSE, we have begun to revisit the Zones of Regulation and are building on tools and strategies to help us in different situations. We will be continuing this work in circle time sessions. Our RSE focus is Safety. We will be learning about adults we can trust inside and outside of school, what to do if we get lost, how to make emergency phone calls, appropriate contact, safety with substances (substances that are safe and unsafe for our bodies) and hazards at home.

In Music, our unit is focused around one song 'Your imagination'. We will be learning about our voices, singing notes of different pitches (high and low). Children will learn that they can make different types of

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sounds with their voices – rapping or saying words in rhythm, and learning to start and stop singing when following a leader.

We have Forest School on Tuesdays this term, so please ensure the children bring in the appropriate clothes and footwear for the weather – see separate letter for guidance. We will have one further lesson of PE every Wednesday, so please send your child in wearing their PE kit on this day.

This term we are excited to welcome back our teaching students from earlier in the year - Mr Foy and Miss Gibbons - who will be with us for Term 5 to complete their placement.

We really hope this letter helps with giving you an overview of what will be happening this term. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us, either through the School Office or on Tapestry.

With best wishes,

Mrs Bishop, Ms Ferber, Mrs Hamblin  
Year 1 Class Teachers and Teaching Assistant