



## Asfordby Hill Primary School

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,

Leics. LE14 3RB

☎ 01664 812244

Email: [admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk](mailto:admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk)

Website: [www.asfordbyhillprimary.leics.sch.uk](http://www.asfordbyhillprimary.leics.sch.uk)



Head teacher: Mrs P Millward  
Chair of Governors: Rev Dr Nick Ashton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a restful holiday and are ready to embark on our Spring Term, adventurous, fun and creative learning journey, as we get ready to explore a variety of themes and topics this term. This month, we will begin with our exciting Science week on January 21<sup>st</sup>: Exploration and Discovery; where children will have the opportunity to discover facts about amazing scientists, as well as investigate and carry out experiments related to materials (our topic for this term).

We will be looking at a variety of genres this term in English: Lila and the Secret of Rain, The three little Pigs, The Rainbow Fish, There's a pig up my nose, Little Bears Adventure to the Moon and Room on the Broom. Our first book will be linked to Africa and we will be exploring this continent in our Geography lessons. Children will be exposed to a wide variety of themes in this topic ranging from African music, dancing, drumming to creating their own African masks in Art, as well as comparing school life in Africa to the UK. Having worked out in Africa on a volunteer project, I will be sharing experiences and photos that will engage the children in this wonderful topic. We will also link this to our PSHE topics, where we will be looking at gratitude- being grateful for what we have, respect - respecting ourselves and other, kindness - what does it mean to be kind? Furthermore we will be looking at valuing ourselves and believing in ourselves. Please could you send in pictures of any acts of kindness that are being carried out by your child both in and out of the home environment to put on our values board.

Children in Holly class are enjoying their creative writing books which were sent home last term, please could you encourage them to keep using and writing wonderful stories, which can then be shared in the classroom to inspire other children.

In science we will be researching materials: identifying, comparing and testing. Underpinning this will be the acquiring the skills of working scientifically; using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions. The children will be developing both their laptop and iPad skills as they research and record their findings.

Maths learning will include using multiplication and division as well as daily mental maths to develop children's speed and awareness of the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be exploring inverse operations and what they mean, as well working on our reasoning and problem solving skills, where children will get the opportunity to solve world problems using all four operations. Please could you therefore practise the 2, 5 and 10 times table with your child at home. There are some great websites to help develop these skills ([www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk), [www.mathsisfun.com](http://www.mathsisfun.com), [www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk), [www.mathsgames.org](http://www.mathsgames.org)). In addition we will be looking at properties of shape, fractions, measurements and consolidating all these topics by the end of the Spring term.

We will be continuing our daily phonics lessons in support of the children acquiring their necessary life skills. Bespoke flashcards will be used to support additional phoneme help for those 'tricky for now,' moments they may be experiencing. Please use these as a daily reinforcement alongside their reading book. Your comments in their reading record and active support are invaluable in developing their skills. A minimum of 10 minutes a day of them reading to you and then a story to conclude the day would be ideal.



Your child will read regularly throughout the school week, the person who hears them could be a teacher, learning support staff, or volunteer. As well as this, I will be continuing up-levelling simple sentences each week, ensuring children are using sentence openers, adjectives, conjunctions, and varied punctuation in their sentences to bring them alive and make them interesting. Please encourage children to also do this at home and share their writing with the class during our show and tell time on Friday afternoons.

Year 2 grammar is the perfect time to ensure they have the skills of using full stops and capital letters to demarcate sentences, using noun phrases to extend sentences, as well as using a range of conjunctions in their writing - but, and, because, until, also, then. This term will be introducing inverted commas, so that they can be used in their story writing. We will continue to look at suffixes and varied punctuation in sentences such as exclamation marks and commas. Each week we will also have handwriting sessions. Reading comprehension will take place each week, where children will read a range of information: non-fiction, fiction and poetry and we will be developing children's inference and deduction skills in retrieving answers to questions. Techniques such as skimming and scanning the text for information will also be taught.

Spellings will be handed out every Wednesday and a spellings test will take place the following Wednesday. I will be sending home the spellings books this term, so that you can see how your child is progressing in their spellings. All spellings given each week are statutory spellings, which the children should know by the end of year two. Spellings can be made fun by writing them out in different colours, creating rainbow shapes to help sound out letters and putting them into sentences to ensure your child can use them in context.

This term in PE we will be exploring dance through a variety of music. Children will be creating their own dance sequences in small groups as they explore a range of music. In addition, children will get the opportunity to do yoga (yoga teacher will be coming in on Thursdays). As the weather gets better, we will be exploring ball games outside, building our team skills and fine motor skills.

Please make sure your child has a **PE kit in school all week**. Please include leggings or tracksuit bottoms with a warm top and trainers to ensure we can still access the outside area. A letter will be sent home if PE kits are not in school, as it is an essential part of the curriculum.

**Home learning challenges** will be sent home on a Friday and due back on Tuesday of the following week. These tasks are sent to support work the children have done the previous week or prepare for work to come.

### **Important Dates**

**Science Week:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January **Half term:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Parents Evenings:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February **School Closes:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Finally, our doors are always open for discussions with parents both before and after school, either informally or by appointment. Plus, if there is any change as to who is collecting your child at the end of the day please notify the office or myself.

Looking forward to our wonderful, fun packed and creative learning this term!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Patel

**Some websites to help at home**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<http://bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths>