



Term 2 Overview for Parents of children in Blackbird Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely half term break and your children have recharged their batteries ready for another fun term of learning.

Our topic title theme for this term is 'Bright Lights & Dark Nights'. We will start by looking at celebrations and festivals of light. Initially we will think about Bonfire night, why and how it is celebrated. Then we will focus on the Hindu festival of light, 'Diwali' and discover how Hindus celebrate at this time and the traditional story of Rama & Sita. Next, we turn our focus to dark nights. We will be finding out why it gets darker earlier in Winter and learning about nocturnal animals. As it turns colder, we will think about how plants and animals adapt to the colder weather and learn about animals that hibernate or migrate in Winter to survive. We will be focusing on the stories 'The Lights that can dance in the night', 'Leaf Man' and 'It was a cold dark night'. We will also be introducing the concept 'Helicopter stories' to the class, this is where the children create their own stories through different objects and characters.

At the end of term our attention will turn to Christmas and we will be busy rehearsing our Nativity play... more details to follow soon!

For a more detailed overview of this term's topic please see the Curriculum Overview Jigsaw attached. This is divided into the different curricular areas. It can also be viewed on our school website. When planning we are guided by your child and our plans do alter to meet their changing needs and interests. We talk about our learning objectives before each lesson, so your child has a clear understanding of what they are doing and why.

Phonics.

We will continue our daily phonics sessions and will start learning the phonemes/graphemes in Phase 3 this term. More information on Phonics is on the school website. We will be sending home packs of common exception words and new sounds that we learn for you to practise at home with your child.

Reading Books.

We usually give each child two reading books to share and read with you at home. Your child will select one book from our reading scheme which is matched to their phonic knowledge and the other is a storybook for you to read with your child. We aim to hear your child read at least once a week and change the books when they have been shared at home. In school, your child will read to their class teacher or a teaching assistant. We try to keep comments in the Reading Diary positive and we would speak to you if we felt there was a problem or a misunderstanding. We teach reading

through our daily English and phonics lessons. The reading books are a way of helping your child to consolidate their reading skills and for you to share their learning. It also enables you to see how their reading is progressing. We estimate that it should take 10-15 minutes to hear your child read each night. Reading should be an enjoyable activity. We want to instil a love for books and reading in your child. If it is not a positive experience at home, please come and talk to us so that we can discuss it and resolve it together. Your child does not have to read BOTH books every night. If they are tired and only want to share one story then that is fine. Write this in the Diary and we will just change one book next time. It is more important that it is a positive experience for them to read with you. Ideally, your child should try to read every day but we know that this is not always possible.

Mystery readers

If you wish to sign up for 'mystery reader' please let the office know. We have slots to come and read to the whole class every Friday at 1:00pm.

Juniper

We are continuing to use 'Juniper' as our observation platform where we will record all the different things that your child does in a day. We will also use this system to send messages too as well as emailing.

If you have any questions please contact the school office and we endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Mrs Bevan, Mrs Croffie and Mrs Rogers