**Class 1 Topics for the term – Spring Term 2015**

**World War Two**

**Literacy**

To tie in with our World War Two project, the children will initially be learning about letter writing. They will be working to develop their understanding of how to set out a letter, and the difference between formal and informal letters. They will be writing a variety of letters linked to World War 2. They will be thinking about diary writing and will have a chance to write their own diary entries, focusing on writing in the first person. They will then be learning about writing information texts and persuasive posters, again linking in with our topic.

**Handwriting**

Following feedback from our recent Ofsted inspection, a new handwriting policy has been implemented. Children in EYFS and KS1 will not be expected to join their letters, although towards the end of Year 2 they will begin to include a flick at the beginning and end of their letters.

**Maths**

The children will be developing their core skills in maths, using the four basic operations. They will also be practising writing the digit to enable them record their work clearly. They will be looking at place value, and developing their skills in estimation. For the year 2 children there will be an emphasis on the learning of the early times tables, starting with 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

The children will be beginning to identify properties of 2d and 3d shapes, and developing their learning of a variety of measures, to include time, money and measurement.

Towards the end of the term, we will begin looking at fractions.

**Science**

Our science topic will be electricity. We will be learning about which types of equipment uses electricity, how to keep ourselves when using it. Using toys as our focus, we will find out which toys need to use electricity and how they can be powered without plugging them in to a socket. We will then be looking at basic electrical circuits, and how we can use a switch to control them.

**Computing**

To link in with our topic, we will be using the IPads and the computers to carryout research. With an emphasis on the safe use of the internet, we will find out some information about Anne Frank, and learn that we need to check our facts across a range of sources.

**History**

In history we will be learning about World War Two. We will be focussing on the ways in which people’s lives changed and were affected by the war, covering evacuation, rationing, new places and faces, growing our own food, changing roles, and the celebrations for VE day etc.

**Music**

We will be looking at music linked to our topics. Children will receive specialist music lessons from Ms Judge every week.

**Art/DT**

We have been looking at some of the posters which were so common during the war. We have started designing our own ‘Dig for Victory’ posters. We will also be using a shoebox to make our own war time street scene. To link in with our science work on electricity, we will be including a circuit with a switch to make a streetlight for our scene.

**RE**

Our RE lessons will link in with our topic. We will be learning about Anne Frank, and in tandem with this learning about Judaism and Christianity. We will be learning about the differences between the two religions, and why she and her family had to hide during the war.

We will also be celebrating the main Christian festivals leading up to Easter.

**PE**

Monday (dance/circuit skills), Friday (swimming am 8.30 in school) and Friday (team games)

Children need to ensure that they have the correct kit and that their hair is tied up. Earrings to be taken out or covered for lessons. As the weather gets colder children are encouraged to bring in jogging bottoms. Please ensure the children have their swimming kit in school for Fridays, and arrive in school before 8.30am to enable us to make the full use of the time allocated at Nancealverne Pool.

**PSHE**

Within the PSHE sessions, the children will be introduced to a variety of themes.

They will be looking at working together and getting along, as we design and plan an air raid shelter using milk bottles. The focus will be on listening and taking turns and learning how we can work effectively as a member of a team. The children will learn how to review their work as they go along and to consider everyone’s opinions to work together for an end goal.

They will also be learning about how every single person is different and that we all have different talents which are equally wonderful. We will think about how Anne Frank and her family were treated differently, and develop our understanding that everyone is special.

**Big Talk**

Your child will be introduced the Big Talk when it is felt they are ready. They will bring home their Big Talk book, with instructions stuck inside. The aim is that the child is able to spend some time with an adult discussing the task. They should then either draw a picture or make some notes, which they will then be able to use when they complete the Big Write the next day. The Big Write usually takes place on a Friday morning, and is designed to be an opportunity for the children to complete an independent piece of work, which they have thought about, and planned for, the night before. It is therefore really important for the children that they have done the preparatory work in their Big Talk.

**General**

* Stud earring and watches are the only items of jewellery to be worn in school.
* Any money brought into school needs to be placed in an envelope and labelled with name and class
* Eye tests are no longer done at school. They are free so please take your child to the optician to check sight.
* Reading – nightly for 5-10 minutes. This will ensure that child becomes a confident and able reader. If children read at least 5 times at home each week they will be entered into the Star Read prize draw on Friday.
* Please ensure that your child has their reading books and recording record in school every day. This helps us to track their progress and ensure they move up to the next level when appropriate.
* Times tables – each child is working on their own time table target and any work at home linked to this can only be a help. Please see the teacher about advice on games etc. that you can play.
* Celebration of achievements in and out of school. If children have certificates etc. please encourage them to bring in to put on the achievers board.
* Clubs – there are a wide variety of clubs. We would like everyone to be involved in at least 1 club. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills and take up new hobbies. Time spent in clubs can be used towards the Children’s University Passport. Any clubs outside of school may also be added so please let us know.
* Spellings will be given to Year 1 and Year 2 children each week on Thursday, and they will have a short spelling test the following Thursday.
* Times tables tests will take place on Friday mornings for Year 1 and Year 2 children. Your child will know which table they are working on.

**WANTED** are there any parents (or other family members) who can help in school? We would really appreciate any help. Thank you to those who have already offered and are helping to hear readers in the AM.

**Naming clothes**

Please could you ensure that every item of your child's clothes and shoes are named. When it comes to PE or swimming it is very tricky to ensure that the correct clothing is returned to the rightful owner when every piece of uniform is identical, unless it is clearly named.