



**Dallington CEP
The Street
Dallington
East Sussex
TN21 9NH**

Woods Corner Class



**Autumn 2021
Years 1 and 2**

Dear Parents/guardians,

Welcome back to the new school year!

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. The children are already settling into the school routine and are eager to learn about our new topic entitled 'Time Travellers.'

Let me take the opportunity to introduce the Woods Corner team. Mrs Bridges and Miss Egan will be working in our classroom this year at different points during the day. We will be working hard to ensure every child has a fun, motivating and successful year.

Our topic until the Christmas break is 'Time Travellers'.

Time Travellers is a whole school topic and I have chosen to look in-depth at Castles as, in previous years, this has been a much loved topic. During this term, the children will be learning about when, how, and why castles were built and what castle life was like for different people living in them. We will encourage the children to be curious about the past and to use resources and artefacts to answer questions they have about castles.

This year I want to develop and celebrate their natural creativity so will be giving them the opportunity to use their ideas and creativity by giving them daily child initiated time which is similar to what they do in EYFS but will be more structured as they have to plan what they are doing, share their ideas with a Learning Partner and then review their achievement. This will hopefully happen (if timetable allows) each day for the last 30 minutes of the afternoon, just before I read the class story.

If you have any resources to support our Castle topic at home, that you would allow the children to share with their peers, please feel free to bring them into school to share on a Friday.

If Government Guidelines allow, we will welcome extra support in the classroom. If you feel you can contribute your time, resources, or helping hands we would be very grateful. In particular, adult helpers to hear children read are invaluable, this can be a time slot that suits you; for example, at the beginning of the school day or just before pick up.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and keeping everything crossed that it is as 'normal' a school year as it can be! We will be work hard to ensure that every child in the class continues to make good progress and loves their learning. However, if there should be anything that is a concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always available.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Mrs Allcorn and the Woods Corner team.

English

This year we are using English planning by Jane Considine, we have chosen this because it uses well-known books to teach fantastic vocabulary, a range of punctuation and grammar, all in interactive, fun lessons. At the end of a set of lessons the children will independently write a piece using the skills taught. We started to use this scheme at the end of last term and the progress and increased confidence by the children was fantastic.

To foster a love of reading we will have a feature author and finish everyday with a chapter from a well-loved book; 'The Enchanted Wood' has proven to be a great start to this. The children will also have the opportunity to vote for a story to be read during snack time.

Daily phonics work will continue regularly in groups and will support writing in other areas of the curriculum. We will have regular Guided Reading sessions and children will read at least once a week 1-1 with an adult.

Our handwriting and presentation will be an area of focus, we are especially looking at forming our letters correctly. Please encourage your child to think about this when doing their home-work.

Mathematics

At Dallington, I find that children love Maths and I feel this is down to teaching with the Maths Mastery approach. The small chunks of learning in each lesson makes every child successful learners and systematically builds on their knowledge.

We will begin by looking at the number system, focusing on place value, adding and subtracting. We will focus on number bonds and key number facts to secure the children's understanding with daily rote counting and recall of addition number facts within 10+10.

Throughout the term we will look at money and link our number knowledge to this important life skill.

We will have a weekly reasoning task where the children will use known mathematical concepts in real-life scenarios.

Science

This term we are learning about the properties of different materials—naming them, investigating their strengths and weaknesses and using this learning to design and create different parts of a castle. We will find out why certain materials are chosen for certain objects and how some materials can be twisted, squashed or bent.

History

We will start with our own timeline of events and then move onto comparing living in a castle with living in a house. We will create a timeline of how castles have evolved and how their purpose changed.

We will label the different parts of a castle and I hope we will be able to go on a school trip to Bodiam Castle to reinforce all our learning.

D.T.

The children will be exploring and using mechanisms, for example, levers, sliders, wheels and axles, to make features of a castle. They will be developing a range of skills, such as, careful folding, accurate cutting and precise measuring when creating their castles out of a range of materials.

PE

We will be using the newly purchased 'Real PE' scheme that we started using at the end of last term. It is fun, interactive and develops key movement skills through activities and games.

After half term we will move onto looking at dance and exploring a range of different movements to create a short routine, again using the Real PE scheme.

PE is on Friday so please ensure your child has a full named kit in school on this day.

Music

We will be using the music scheme 'Charanga' to learn about different musical components and using well known songs to keep a steady beat, play musical instruments to and change some of the lyrics. We will also be learning songs for Harvest Festival.

Computing

Across the term children will have the opportunity to work with a range of technology and explore how they work. They will develop understanding in e-safety, using a computer for specific activities, i.e. saving and editing a word document and develop their independent computer skills.

PSHE

The children will be encouraged to have a growth mind-set throughout the school day., celebrating achievements and setting goals. As well as knowing it is ok to make mistakes and we can learn from them. We will also have weekly Circle Time sessions to express their opinions, feel heard and valued. We will be learning how to communicate our feelings, to recognise how others show their feelings.

RE

This term we will be learning about Christianity and what we think God is like by learning about him through Bible stories and pictures.

Homework

Year 1's will not have formal homework until after Christmas. However, we encourage that they read daily at home and that this is recorded in their reading record.

Year 2's will get a home work grid each term and please encourage your child to read daily at home and record this in their reading record.

Gardening

We are grateful to the volunteers who come in to take groups of children gardening.

Please can you ensure your child has wellingtons in school so we can use our gardening and woodland area as much as possible.

Reading Books

Our aim is to encourage a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information.

Therefore we would encourage all parents to read with their child for 10 minutes each evening. Please write a comment in your child's reading record each time they've read at home.

Once the children have finished their reading books, please can you encourage them to choose another book from their coloured reading box.