

# We're Going to the Zoo



## CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER YEAR 1: AUTUMN TERM 1ST HALF

This newsletter is designed to give parents and carers a taste of the coming topic for Year 1. We have detailed below the main themes that we hope to cover, although there may be changes to respond to the children's ideas and interests. Some subjects will have a greater share of time depending on the topic but we ensure that there is a balance over the year. Children will also continue to join in our 'Fun Friday' curriculum experiences this half term. We hope you find this newsletter useful!

**STIMULUS:** A visit to Colchester zoo to see the elephants and learn about the savannah!

Annual Events: Parents' Evening, Harvest, Operation Christmas Child, Remembrance Assembly, Christmas events. (Please see the school website for dates).

### LITERACY:

In fiction we are covering writing a story based on Elmer the Elephant. In non fiction we will write a recount of our school trip. We will also listen to poetry linked to the elephant animal theme.

### MATHEMATICS:

We will be using play and exploration around the theme of size and measures. Basic mathematics teaching follows the National Strategy.

### GEOGRAPHY:

We will learn about the savannah on our zoo visit and then make links with our local environment through observation. We will explore the two contrasting locations and compare the similarities and differences.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

We follow the Essex agreed syllabus for RE. The themes are 'Special Words and Stories' and 'Special People'. Year 1 will find out about Hinduism as their link religion and explore the festival of Christmas as well as visit the church for special assemblies.

### SCIENCE:

The key skills are identifying

Life and Living Processes when looking at ourselves as humans and at animals and their offspring.

### ART:

In painting we will focus on colours and colour mixing, in drawing we will experiment with shading and in sculpture we will make 3D elephant models. There will be opportunities to look at, draw and model elephant ornaments and toys.

### DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:

We will explore where food comes from linked to Harvest and make elephant biscuits! We will explore joining techniques and design, make and test bridge structures that will hold an elephant toy.

### MUSIC:

We will be exploring the different elements of music, learning topic related songs and listening to music as a stimulus for dance, drama and for musical appreciation.

### PSHE:

We are following units of work based around 'Rules and Responsibilities' and 'Me and My Friends'. Elements of staying healthy are routinely covered in PE and in some Science units.

### PE:

Games (outdoors while we can), dance and floor work in gymnastics are the main units. We follow the Essex PE scheme for this.

### COMPUTING:

Key skills will be taught in the units of 'Simulation' and as well as using ICT across the curriculum.

In some subjects we follow separate schemes of work which are not always linked to the topic. (reading, spelling, handwriting, grammar and mathematics). Some subjects are blocked and taught during a particular half term so that we can study them in more in depth with the children.

*Don't forget you can help at home with daily reading, playing maths games and using the 'Espresso' and 'Oxford Owl' websites. There will also be a special Year 1 Curriculum Pack coming home soon!*