



Minnows Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Minnows and the new school year! We hope that you have all enjoyed your summer break and are ready for the new term. We are very excited to get to know the children and settle them into their new class.

This term our Topic will be **Toys**. In **history**, we will be studying how toys have developed and changed over time. We will look at toys from different time periods and discuss differences and similarities between them. To develop our chronological skills, we will be making a timeline and using related vocabulary. We will also be making links to our science topic which focuses on materials. After half term, our **geography** topic will be naming the continents and oceans of the world and locating them on a world map.

As mentioned, our **science** unit is looks at materials. We will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials and carrying out some exciting experiments to find out about their properties. The children will develop the skills of sorting and classifying as well as describing what different materials look and feel like. After half term, we will begin to look at seasonal changes in the surrounding area. Science lessons are generally hands on and a lot of fun!

In **art** this term, we are focusing on self-portraits. We will seek inspiration from two children's illustrators to produce our own work. After half term we will be making free standing structures in **DT** and the children will be designing and making a model of their own.

This term, our work in **RE** will focus on Christianity and we will be thinking about the creation story. The children will learn more about what Christians believe and respond to some of the puzzling questions about the world around them. After half term we will be thinking about the way in which different communities celebrate together. In **PSHE**, our focus will be on forming healthy relationships and the children will be exploring their feelings and discussing strategies that can be used in times of difficulty. As a school we are introducing the **zones of regulation** which is an approach designed to help the children identify and handle their emotions.

Our work in **computing** will be linked to the topic and the children will be practicing the skill of digital painting to produce images of toys. After half term they will be looking at technology around the classroom.

PE will be on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Children will need to come to school in PE kit on these days.

Homework:

It is vital that children are reading every day at home (for about 15 minutes) and this should be logged in their reading record. The reading records will be checked every Friday and we would expect to see a minimum of 4 adult signatures across the week. There is an incentive of an extra 10 minutes play time for this. Please include any relevant comments if necessary and we will respond where appropriate.

Reading books are changed on a Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child's reading record and book is in school every day. Once we have assessed the children we will also be sending out some high frequency words that we would like them to practise reading at home.

Please note that the children in Minnows **should not bring a pencil case into school**. We have everything that they need.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see either of us on the playground before or after school. Alternatively, please contact the office if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Kindest Regards,

Ms Elliott
(Monday/Tuesday am)

Miss Weetch
(Tuesday pm/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)

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<i>Topic</i>	<i>Toys</i>
English	Narrative – adventure stories Poetry – acrostic poems about toys Non-fiction – writing instructions Narrative – fables
Maths	Place Value within 10 Addition and subtraction Shape
Science	Everyday Materials Seasonal Changes
Geography	The Seven Continents and Five Oceans
RE	What does the creation story teach Christians about God? How does a celebration bring a community together?
Computing	Digital painting – Toys Technology around us – becoming familiar with a computer
Art	Self Portraits
DT	Free standing Structures
PSHE	Me and my Relationships Valuing Difference Zones of regulation
PE	Gymnastics

	PE skills Team Building
Music	Listening Singing Playing instruments Improvising