



Minnows Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024

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.

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** focus will be naming the continents and oceans of the world, discussing some of their features and locating them on a world map.

As mentioned, our **science** unit is about 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.

Our work in **computing** this term, explores digital painting and learning about computing systems and networks.

PE will be on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. 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 on a Friday afternoon for this. Please include any relevant comments if necessary and we will respond where appropriate. Research has shown that rereading texts has a considerable impact on children's progress in reading. For this reason, we encourage the children to reread their books. It is also helpful to ask your child questions about the text they have read, to ensure understanding of the book. **Reading books are changed on a Tuesday and Friday. Please make sure 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.

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,

Mrs Hatch
(Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday am)

Mrs Hopkinson
(Wednesday/Thursday/Friday)

Autumn Term 2024

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Toys</i>
English	Contemporary Narrative – Adventure Stories Visual Poems – Acrostics Instructions Traditional Narrative - Fables
Maths	Place Value Addition and Subtraction Geometry – Shape
Science	Everyday Materials Seasonal Changes
History	Toys Over Time
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? - Christianity and Islam
Computing	Creating Media – Digital Painting Computing Systems and Networks – Technology Around Us
Art	Self-Portraits
DT	Free Standing Structures
PSHE	Me and My Relationships Valuing Difference
PE	Team Building Striking and Fielding Sending and Receiving Invasion Games
Music	Introducing Beat Adding Rhythm and Pitch