

## Welcome to Mars

This year, we have pupils in years Reception, one and two in Mars. The teachers will be Mrs Gilman, who will teach the first half of the week, and Mrs Borland who will teach at the end of the week. Miss Wray (HLTA) will be teaching and supporting, Mrs Cookson and Mrs Mollart will be supporting pupils across the week.

## Curriculum for Reception

This year we will be working on the new statutory\_revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, with the benefit of having been an early adopter school last year. The curriculum is taught working with children in continuous provision, where the children have the benefit working and learning in small groups and learning with their peers, at a level which is appropriate for each child.

## Curriculum areas for years 1 and 2

**English:** Reading, spelling/phonics and writing will be taught separately each day.

Reading will be taught for 30 minutes and the pupils will work in small groups on books appropriate for their phonics, reading and comprehension ability. This is regularly reviewed.

The Write Stuff to teach writing for an hour each day. During this lesson, the pupils will be able to use and apply the knowledge gained from their reading and phonics lessons. Each morning, as the pupils arrive in school, we will work on improving the pupils' handwriting.

**Maths:** Maths will be taught daily for one hour and then throughout the week, the pupils will receive short times tables sessions where they will be given access to their TT Rockstars account (more information coming soon). To begin with, pupils will be revising Place Value which includes looking at number formation. In every lesson, the pupils will be asked to use and apply their maths skills by solving a range of reasoning challenges and solving problems.

## RE:

**Good News** Children will establish what the good news in the Bible is. They will think about the questions "What good news stories did Jesus tell?" and "How does the Bible show Jesus living his life as good news?"

## Science:

**Animals including humans** Children will identify and name a variety of common animals:

sorting animals into animal families such as birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals

identifying animals by their diet, naming examples of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores

describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals.

identify basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

**Seasonal change** observing change across the seasons; such as weather associated and variation in day length, which ties into our Woodland themed English learning in the first half of the term. We start in the woods with Little Red Riding Hood, before embarking on our own woodland adventure.

## History (first half term): Toys

Children will be learning History skills through the topic of toys, looking at a variety of toys, comparing the characteristics of toys and learning by investigating a range of resources. If you could please send in a toy for our topic on **-please send in a toy on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**. The toy should be an inexpensive toy which is labelled, which is your child likes, but not loves so that they are able to compare it and share with others during learning.

### **Geography (second half term): The local area - If you go down to Wincle today.**

Initially using simple fieldwork and observational skills children will study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key features of its surrounding environment.

To widen geographical perspective, pupils will use aerial photographs and plans to recognise landmarks and identify basic features; and construct basic symbols on their own map.

### **Art( first half term):**

Children will learn about drawing using patterns and textures and showing different tones. They will use some ideas from the notable local artist Charles Tunnicliffe to help them draw bird and wildlife pictures.

### **DT (second half term):**

Children will use wool to create a woven rug. They will shape and join a range of textiles and decorate the textiles using a range of techniques to create a Christmas decoration.

**Computing:** After considering the use of technology pupils will look at how we use programming to control and gain a response from devices. In the second half of the term pupils will work on creating a publishing work on devices.

### **PSHE: All About Me inc. Diversity & Difference**

Children will learn strategies to work positively in the classroom (and beyond) for example the importance of self-respect and respectful friendships.

In the second half of the term the focus moves to embracing difference and diversity from the basis of talking about their family knowing that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability. Pupils will learn that others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.

### **Music:**

Children will learn about rhythmic development using the drums and pitch development using their voices.

### **PE:**

Peak Active Sport will teach one PE lesson on a Tuesday and the first focus will be athletics and then after half term, gymnastics. On Friday the games lessons taught are football for the first half term and netball for the second half term.

### **Reception, years 1 and 2**

#### **Trips**

Woodland walk- 6th October

#### **Rewards and sanctions**

The staff and pupils have been involved with deciding on the rewards and sanctions they feel would be most suitable for Mars. Our classroom ethos is to provide positive feedback on an ongoing basis, so that children feel confident and secure and know that they are doing well, or can be supported to make better choices.

To promote teamwork, in the classroom there is a star jar and the aim is to work together to collect stars for the class. When the jar has 100 stars the children enjoy a very special class treat, which the children choose.

If pupils require a reminder to shine like a star, their name will be written on the board. If further reminders are required, the pupils may move to 'catch up at break' or 'action needed', denoted by a mark beside their name.

### **Emotional health and well-being**

We appreciate that the last two years have been very different for pupils and their emotional health and well-being remains our utmost priority. In school, each pupil will take part in the My Happy Mind programme this year which builds resilient, balanced and happy minds.

### **Reception, years 1 and 2**

#### **Homework**

Consolidating learning is an important part of a child's education, as is sharing their knowledge with others. This term, we will be focusing homework on the following areas:

**Reading:** Your child is expected to read at least three times a week and once at a weekend. Please support your child by recording their reading in their diary and talk to them about the book that they have read. We will be monitoring the frequency of book changing. For the first half term all children will take a book home to read for enjoyment to share with an adult. On Monday and Friday all banded books will be changed, in addition extend your child's reading by accessing the many resources on Bug Club.

#### **Spelling:**

##### **Reception**

For pupils in Reception there is a jam-packed envelope of resources to support your child with working on the sounds taught and a list of when each sound and tricky word is being taught. Do practise reading and formation of the sounds and tricky words three times a week to build skills. Letter formation can be using any form of media such as shaving foam, paint and sounds recognition and there are ideas in the pack too. Do remember that the phonics pack is for the whole term.

The children in Year 1 will have a spelling pattern to learn each week. They will be given examples of words using the pattern and will be expected to find other words using the pattern from a book on Bug Club or from a book they are reading. There will also be some common exception words (CEW) or as we say "tricky words", which are not phonetically decodable, to learn to read and spell. Lists of both the sounds and words will be in the front of your child's phonic homework book.

##### **Miss Wray's spelling group:**

We are moving away from the traditional way of teaching spelling for those children working with Miss Wray and your child will not be sent home word lists to learn for a formal test. Instead, your child will have a sound focus each week. In their diaries, they will have a grid identifying all of the different ways of spelling the sound. Please support your child by looking through the words on this grid and seeing if together, you can find any others. We are hoping to run workshops for parents to demonstrate the new method of teaching spelling later this term.

**Phonics screening test for year 2** pupils will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Over the term year 2 pupils will be given skills-building sessions to help them show the skills that they have acquired.

**Maths:** The maths homework will focus on the key instant recall facts. This term, we are sending home a comprehensive pack for your child to use over the term, In addition we have purchased access to TT Rockstars to improve mathematical skills, especially timetables. More information on how to access TT Rockstars will be sent out on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September following our very exciting launch. Please support your child by your child by working on the KIRF maths homework each week and upload photos to Tapestry- we love to see the progress

and different ways which pupils learn out of school. We will complete in-school tasks to identify progression made in the KIRFs.

In the front of the home/school diary is information on how best to contact the Mars teaching team should you require support or have any queries.