



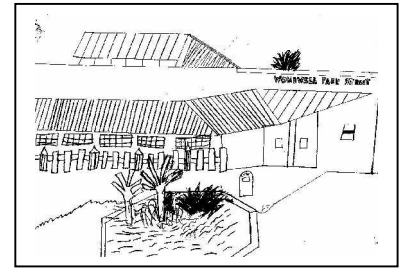
BRONZE

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Dear Parents and Carers of Amazing Aliens

Autumn Term 2009

I hope you find the contents of this letter useful when talking to your child about what they are learning this term. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it should give you some ideas on how to support your child's learning at home so that they make even faster progress. Please feel free to ask if you need more information or if you can offer your help.

English: We will be learning about stories with familiar settings such as home, school and shopping. We will also be following instructions and learning how to write and give simple instructions, recognise rhyming words and join in with poetry.

- At home, you can help your child by encouraging them to write simple sentences about their experiences with full stops. You could get them to talk about events that happen in order and help them develop their listening skills by following instructions.
- Attached is a key words booklet with the important words that need to be learnt by the end of the year. If your child can read, write and spell these words it will help them become more confident readers and writers. Short games could be played with the words like snap or pelmanism to make learning the words fun.
- Each day this year we will be doing work on letter formation and learning how to spell words phonetically, by their sounds. You can help them by encouraging them to sound words out when they are reading. I have collected in the orange Reading Records this week, if you have one at home could you please return it so that I can have a good look at the progress your child has already made with their reading. Next week they will get new books and Mrs Barraclough and I will listen to them read on a regular basis. If they could have their book and record at school every day it would be very helpful. At home if they do 5 mins work on their reading and writing each night, it will have greater benefit to their learning than spending a longer period of time less frequently.

Maths: We are learning about counting, ordering, reading and writing numbers to at least 30. We will be naming 2D shapes and 3D shapes as well as telling the time to the hour, naming coins, comparing lengths, adding and subtracting by counting on from a small number and taking away from a group. Maths homework will go home on Friday and it will relate to the week's learning objectives.

- Children usually enjoy counting activities and games, rolling and adding dice, playing dominoes, counting cars, counting pocket money etc. They could also talk about shapes they see in the home and practise doing simple addition or take away problems using household objects.

Science: We will be finding out about materials, naming them, sorting them and observing the changes in some materials. Baking is a good way to help your child learn about these changes, making jelly, toast, lollipops etc with some help of course! We will be exploring pushes and pulls and after half term we will be learning about sources of light and reflective materials as we prepare for Christmas and make decorations.

Topic: We are learning about 'Life in Different Places' and looking at India, The Arctic, Antarctic and Native Americans. Seeing as we are the Amazing Aliens, we will also be thinking about what life might be like in space! The Autumn term is also a time of different festivals like Eid, Diwali, Bonfire Night, Halloween, Harvest and of course Christmas. We will be looking at how people celebrate these and use these to help inspire our art work as well as learning about different groups of people. We will be learning about life in the local environment and thinking about some of the similarities and differences between ourselves and people in different places.

ICT: We will be using ICT to support our learning across the curriculum. Your child will learn to use programs in school that enable them to search for information relating to our topics safely. At home, please make sure you know what your child is doing on the Internet and help us to reinforce Internet safety.

Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure children have black shorts, white t-shirt and pumps in line with the school policy. No jewellery is to be worn on these days. On Tuesdays PE may be outside and children can bring a tracksuit and trainers in addition to their normal PE kit on that day.

Mrs Barraclough will be working in our class every morning to support the children with their learning and help them to settle in year 1 / 2. She will also assist me in listening to the children read on a regular basis and delivering group intervention strategies such as Max's Marvellous Maths.

Year 2s will be taking part in cookery lessons with Mrs Fenton on Thursdays this half term. The Year 1s will get this opportunity after half term. The class will be going on a trip related to our topic this term and I will give you more information about this when it had been finalised.

As well as an educational visit, other things to look forward to are Writing Week (2nd-5th November), Harvest Festival (22nd September) and the Christmas production (9th and 10th December).

Yours sincerely
Mrs Watson