



# Hope Class Newsletter: Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to offer a very warm welcome to Hope Class children and families. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break and that your children are looking forward to seeing their friends all together back in class. We know that many of you may be feeling anxious in light of what we have all been through over the last six months, but please be assured that your children’s safety and well-being is at the heart of our return to school.

Initially, we will have a ‘recovery curriculum’ in which we will focus heavily on rebuilding our class and school community so that all the children feel safe and happy. Boosting the children’s self-esteem and their relationships with each other will be central to this curriculum and so the first few weeks will be quite different to a normal start to the academic year. We will be using lots of games and discussion activities to build trust in each other again and to help us all set foundations for learning that will benefit us for the rest of the year. After this initial ‘recovery curriculum’ period, we will begin some more typical lessons and ways of learning once everyone is feeling more confident and secure in class. Please see the grid below for brief details.

<p>In <b>English</b>, we will be writing descriptive poems and short pieces of writing about the rainforest. We will be basing these on our class book ‘The Fantastic Flying Journey’ by Gerald Durrell.</p> <p>We will also be using this book to work through some reading comprehension questions together (VIPERS).</p>	<p>Our <b>Maths</b> learning will focus on our ‘number sense’ initially and will involve games, puzzles and investigations in pairs. We will then move on to more formal learning of understanding of number and place value, followed by addition and subtraction methods.</p>	<p>In <b>Science</b>, we will be learning about plants and their uses and functions. We will then begin to sort plants and animals based on different identification criteria. We will move onto look at the food chain in the rainforest.</p>
<p>In <b>Geography</b>, we will be finding out where the world’s rainforests are located. We will be developing our mapping skills and learning about the rainfall and temperature in different climate zones.</p>	<p>In <b>Art</b>, we will be evaluating rainforest-themed art work by artists such as Franz Marc and Henri Rousseau. We will then be creating our own pieces of art using similar styles.</p>	<p>We will be using <b>Computers</b> to produce a PowerPoint presentation based on our Science work, as well as learning about ESafety.</p>
<p>There will be two <b>PE*</b> lessons every week, one will be on a Tuesday with Mrs Elson and the other will be on a Friday with Mr Maddison. This term, the focus is on invasion games.</p> <p><i>* Please remember that PE kits (trainers, white t-shirt, black or blue shorts/skort) are required to be in school every day.</i></p>	<p>Our <b>RE</b> theme for this term is ‘God and Creation. And our key question is: What do Christians learn from the creation story?’</p>	<p>Our <b>PSHE</b> learning will be focusing on creating a safe, welcoming and happy class and school environment. There will be a focus on positive mental health and developing our self-esteem.</p>
	<p>In <b>French</b>, we will be learning about France and its culture, greetings, colours and numbers.</p>	<p>In <b>Music</b>, the focus this term will be on rainforest music and recreating that with rain shakers made in school and percussion. The children will be taught by Mr Maddison on alternate Tuesday afternoons.</p>

Initially for home learning, we are prioritising reading and mental maths skills. Children are expected to practise their times tables - using Times Tables Rockstars if possible - and to read a minimum of three times a week at home (recording this in their school diary). Once we begin to set weekly spellings, the aim is that children will also practise these three times a week and should collect signatures in their School diary to show that they’ve completed their ‘Niners’ home learning. We will be regularly checking school diaries to see how the children are getting on. Thank you for supporting your children with their home learning so that they can develop positive home learning habits and independence.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to write a note in your child’s diary or see us before or after school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Elson and Mrs McSloy