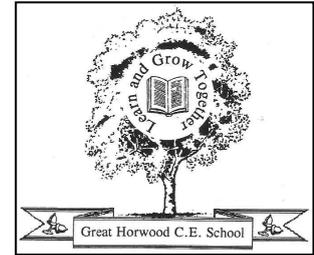


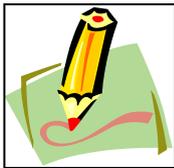
GREAT HORWOOD C. of E. COMBINED SCHOOL

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

YEAR 1/2 Autumn Term 2011



ENGLISH

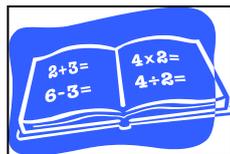


Over the term we will be looking at stories with familiar settings that the children can relate to. We will then look at more traditional tales, linking the stories to our first theme of the Term, Rainforests. We will work on writing in sentences, using capital letters, full stops and words that are used to link sentences. Our spelling work as usual will focus on high frequency words and spelling patterns. Later on in the Term the children will also hear, read, respond to, and write poems with particular patterns. Our non-fiction text will focus on following and writing instructions.



MATHEMATICS

This term we will be furthering our learning by developing our skills in calculation using different methods. In Year 2, children need to be sure of their number bonds to 10 and 20, and their 2, 5 and 10 times table. In addition, we will be applying our mathematical skills to solve problems in number, shape, space, and measures. Mental mathematics remains an important aspect of our daily learning.



MUSIC

In Music we will be covering two units from our scheme of work, Music Express. These will be "Taking off" which practises recognising different pitch and "Rain, rain go away" which looks at different ways of making music and at ways of recording what they have done.



The children will all make their own finger puppets as last year, so they can play with the clay tile houses at playtime.

Information for you

- PE lessons are on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.
- Homework will be given out on Fridays to be handed in on the following Wednesday.
- Spelling will be given out on a Monday and tested on the following Monday.

SCIENCE

To start with this term we will be studying a unit called "Ourselves" in which the children learn about their senses and how they can use them to explore the world around them. They also learn that humans and other animals move and grow.

We will then move onto the unit "Light and Dark" which develops children's understanding of the need for light in order to see things. Children learn that darkness is the absence of light and that in the absence of sunlight other light sources are seen more easily. This also ties in with our work on keeping safe as winter approaches.

Their experimental and investigative work focuses on; making suggestions of how to investigate an idea, making observations and comparisons and explaining their observations.



PE

In games, we will be learning how to work together to play different games using a range of skills such as throwing, kicking and striking. In Gymnastics we will perform basic actions such as travelling, jumping, making still shapes and develop these into sequences. In the second half of the term the children will be doing dance instead of gymnastics.

Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school and that every item of clothing is named to avoid confusion. Any practise at home for the children in getting dressed on their own would be greatly appreciated.



CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Our theme for learning this half term is "The Rainforest". The children will look at maps to find out where the rainforests are. How would they get there? What would you wear to visit the rainforest? They will draw their favourite Rainforest animal and find out where they live in the rainforest, what they like to eat, how they look after their young etc.

Alongside looking at the animals of the Rainforest we will look at the amazing plants that can be found there.

We will also find out why the Rainforests are so important.

In the second half of the term, our learning theme is Celebrations and Light. We will be comparing winter celebrations of different religions. In Geography the children will label a world map showing where the festivals are celebrated, they will also compare different routes to the church using OS maps of the local area. In Art and DT, we will be designing and making our own Christmas cards using silhouettes based on the Christmas Story.



ICT

To start the term the children will be practising their keyboard skills, e.g. recognising the capital letters and their position, and learning how to use the features of an ICT graphics package. They will need to select and use simple tools (pen, brush, fill, and spray) in their mark making, and understand that work can be easily amended and ideas can be tried out without spoiling earlier versions. We will also be using ICT as a research tool. We are trying to improve our typing skills and it would be great if you could help at home by going on Dance Mat at www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing - it's great fun for adults as well.

PSHCE

Our first theme is "Animals and us". They learn that humans have a responsibility of care towards different kinds of animals - including pets and wildlife.

After the half term holidays the theme will be "Growing and changing". The children will become aware of how they change physically as they grow and will discuss the extra responsibilities and independence they have as they are becoming more grown up.

RE

We will start the term looking at "What's it like to belong to a religion?"

In the second half of the term our theme is "Light festivals in religion". We will look at festivals of different religions that involve light. This leads us into our Christmas celebrations.

NEW WEBSITE

We will be using our new website to let you know what is happening in Conkers. All homework and letters will be published on the website. Parents are encouraged to add comments. Follow the link from the main school website or follow the link below:

<http://conkers.greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk>