

# Class One Curriculum Newsletter: African Adventure



Our current topic in Class One is African Adventure. The main curriculum focus for this topic are geography, science and art.

## English

In our English lessons we will begin by looking at poems on the theme of the weather. We will look at different poetic language features (similes, onomatopoeia, interesting word choices, alliteration) and at the way poems are written. We will use poems already written as models for our own writing and then write our own poem to send to our partner school in India.

Our narrative unit this half term will be based on stories set in Africa. We will be looking at how words can be used to create pictures in our heads and how we can imagine ourselves to be in places we have not visited.

We will use the research we will do as part of our geography and science units to write information texts about Africa. We will look at how information texts are structured and how the word choice is different in information texts and narratives.

Our grammar focus will be on punctuating sentences correctly. We will look at a larger range of punctuation (exclamation marks for Year 1 and apostrophes for contractions and possession in Year 2). We will also investigate the spelling rules for adding suffixes to words.

## Maths

In our maths lessons we will be looking at the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and investigating strategies for how to solve one and two step problems.

We will have a focus on time and will be telling the time to the hour and half hour in Year 1. Children in Year 2 will begin to tell the time to the quarter hour. We will also consolidate our work on fractions of number and shape, focussing on halves and quarters in Year 1 and thirds and fifths in Year 2.

In our daily mental maths sessions we will practise our mental calculation skills, including our pairs of numbers to 10 and 20. We will continue to learn number patterns, for example counting in 2s, 5s and 10s from any number, and our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will also work on describing 3D shapes using mathematical language (vertices, edge, face).

## Understanding the World (Science, Geography and Computing)

In our science unit, we will look at animals and habitats in Africa and in Hyde. We will identify, describe and compare animals and talk about how they have adapted to different environments. We will also find out about animal life cycles and how animals change as they get older.

In our geography unit, we will find out about Zambia. We will compare the physical and human features of Zambia and Hyde and discuss reasons for similarities and differences.

In our unit on computing, we will be looking at collecting data and using Excel to present the information in different ways. We will also be practising saving and retrieving our documents.

## Expressive Art and Design (Art, Design and Technology, Music)

In art, we will be investigating form through exploring clay, pencil and paint. We will take our inspiration from our work on Zambia. We are going to find out about how shading can add depth to our work and use clay to make masks or shields.

In Design and Technology, we will be making moving cards with an Easter theme. We will look at levers, pivots and sliders and use what we find out to create a range of different moving pictures.

In Music, we will be exploring rhythm, dynamics and tempo. We will link this to our work on Africa by investigating clapping and drumming patterns. We will also sing a range of songs and explore the effect of changing the dynamics and tempo.

## Religious Education

Our RE focus for this topic is on New Life. We will be investigating the concept of New Life in relation to Easter and spring. We will talk about why Christians think about new life during Easter.

## Physical Development (PE and Handwriting)

In dance we will be exploring the movements of African animals and using these to construct dance sequences. We will work in pairs, small groups and as a class. We will also use different speeds and levels to develop our movements.

Handwriting is taught to small groups depending on their needs. We will be ensuring children are using a correct pencil grip and that they form the individual letters correctly. Once children can do this they will move on to learning how to join their letters correctly following the Nelson Handwriting Scheme.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

We will be thinking about "Friendship and Caring". We will talk about how friendships develop and how to mend them if they break down. We will also focus on how to be caring towards other people and what it means if we are acting in a caring way.

## Trailblazers

We will continue to take our learning outside whenever possible to accrue enough hours over the year for our bronze Trailblazer award. This means that we need to spend 60 hours across the year working in the outdoors or learning about the environment. Hopefully the weather will be much kinder to us from now on! It can be very cold on the common, even on a sunny day, so please make sure that your child has a pair of outdoor shoes and a warm coat available in school at all times.



## Ideas for supporting your child at home:

- \* Go to the local library and take out books on Africa. What interesting facts and stories can you find to share with us in class?
- \* Read several books by the same author. Who are they writing for? What is their style of writing? Would you recommend them?
- \* Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and then learn your times tables. How quickly can you answer questions when they are not in order?
- \* Play board games. How many more squares do you need to the next number you say when you count in 10s? Is the number you land on odd or even? How do you know?
- \* Play card games. What is the largest total you can make with two cards? What about three? Who can be the first to make all the totals between two and twelve?
- \* Learn the pairs of numbers to ten, twenty and one hundred. These are the basis of lots of mathematical skills and so quick recall is essential.

## Websites to use at home

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com> – you will need to create an account for your child for this free game that will help them practise their phonic skills.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> – phonics games to reinforce phonic skills. This website has a free section and a section that you need to subscribe to – the children have used the free section at school.

<http://www.ictgames.com/lcwc.html> – an online version of the “Look, say, cover, write, check” approach to learning spellings

<https://www.codeforlife.education/rapidrouter/> – practise your coding skills by using this website we used last term

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=SpringNumber> – a selection of different maths games with a spring theme

[http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/me3us/flash/lessonLauncher.html?lesson=lessons/08/m3\\_08\\_00\\_x.swf](http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/me3us/flash/lessonLauncher.html?lesson=lessons/08/m3_08_00_x.swf) – a game to practise multiplication skills using arrays

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> – a selection of different games to help with the development of mental maths skills