Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another academic year, I hope that you have all had a lovely summer enjoying the somewhat drier weather than is normal for a British summer ! Whilst the children have been on their summer break, there has been an awful lot happening in school ! Acorns Classroom has some new double doors which allow us to open up the learning space into the transformed hall area. We have a new mezzanine area above the hall containing the new library and Year 3/4 space as well as a new space in the old locker room which to teach EYFS phonics.. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to an opening event later in September so that you can see for yourselves our updated learning spaces.

In Acorns Class we welcome our new EYFS teaching assistant Mrs Williams. Mrs Williams has taught as a TA for several years at a local school and brings to Bibury a wealth of experience and understanding of Key Stage 1.

As ever at Bibury, Term 1 will be busy with lots of learning opportunities planned to bring learning alive for our children.

Below I will outline the broad elements of our curriculum for this term.

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| Phonics and spelling | EYFS and those new to learning English will begin learning phonics on day 2 ! This term we will teach Phase 2 sounds which cover most of the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Children will learn to blend sounds together to read simple words before progressing to read simple sentences.  Year 1 will recap and embed phase 5 sounds which are the last group of sounds to be learnt.  Year 2 will focus upon recapping all their phonics from Year 1 and learning the spelling rules from Phase 6. All children in Year 1 and Year 2 will be assessed for their phonics in weeks 1 and 2 to ensure any gaps in recall which have developed over the break are quickly plugged. |
| English | EYFS will begin with listening to stories and recalling the details of these stories by sequencing them. They will also use the phonics they are learning to read and write simple words and labels. Close attention will be paid to letter formation and correct pencil grip.  Year 1 and Year 2 will begin with a narrative unit based on the traditional tale Little Red Riding Hood. Within this unit we will practise creating sentences using lots of different writing techniques including use of repetition, use of alliteration and onomatopoeia. We will also be reviewing our use of full stops, capital letters, question marks and exclamation marks.  Later in the term we will learn how to write non-chronological reports using toys from the past as our theme. |
| Maths | EYFS will begin by exploring our resources for Maths, learning how we use them and look after them. Later we will begin units on sorting and matching, identifying which groups are equal and which are not before moving on to look at the representations of 1, 2 and 3.  Year 1 will begin with accurate counting and then learn how to spell the words for numbers 1 – 10. We will move on to comparing and ordering numbers to 10 before looking at how numbers to 10 can be partitioned ( eg 7 and 3 equal 10).  Year 2 will be looking closely at numbers to 100, finding ways to partition them ( eg 67 and 33 make 100). We will also be introducing number lines and ordering, comparing and estimating numbers using a number line to 100. Later in the term we will be recapping our number bonds to 10 before using these to find number bonds to 100. In the last two weeks of term, we will be looking at addition and subtraction and learning how to add and subtract two digit numbers.  All children in Year 1 and Year 2 will have some tests at the start of the term to identify any gaps in understanding from their previous year. |
| Science | Our topic this term is Healthy Me. EYFS will be learning the names of different body parts before looking at the effects of exercise on our bodies, examining what activities we like to do , before looking at other ways we can keep healthy by brushing our teeth, going to bed on time and washing our hands properly. Towards the end of the term, EYFS will also look at the seasonal changes involved in Autumn.  Year 1 and 2 will be looking at similar content but in more detail. We will look at the 5 rules for keeping healthy   * Supporting our mental health by doing things we enjoy * Taking daily exercise * Eating a healthy balanced diet * Giving ourselves enough sleep * Keeping ourselves clean   We will also practice collecting and presenting data by tasting a variety of apples, conducting a survey and creating a pictogram. Later in the term they will join EYFS on a walk around Bibury investigating autumnal changes. |
| RE | Mrs Davies will be teaching a unit on Islam titled Who is Muslim and how do they live. She will be looking at the how Muslims perceive God ( Allah) and also exploring the teaching of the prophet Mohammed. |
| History | Our topic this term is called My Family History. We will be enlisting your help and those of grandparents / relatives/ friends for this unit of work. The children will be investigating how everyday life has changed since their grandparents / parents were born. We will want to find out about homes, toys, school experiences and shops. I will send home a list of questions each week for the children to ask their relatives. Please support them to record the answers and if you have any difficulty with this please do speak to me – we can always find a way around this so that your child has a contribution to make.  EYFS will focus on talking about their family and how they fit in to their wider family. We are hoping to have a trip to the Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection as part of our learning this term. |
| Computing | Year 1 and 2 will begin the year with a unit on Online Safety – we will talk about what to do if they find something upsetting on the internet, the rules around sharing photos and general advice around making sure a parent is with them when they are using the internet. Further advice about keeping your child safe online can be found on the school website.  We will move on to exploring the Purple Mash site later in the term so that the children are familiar with the software we use. Before the end of term, we will complete a unit on effective internet searching aimed at Key Stage 1 children. |
| Design Technology | This term Mrs Russell will be teaching a textiles unit. The children will design and make their own hand puppet this term, developing their design skills as well as their textile skills. This unit links in well with our history topic on toys from the past. |
| PSHE | We will be looking at classroom and school rules to begin the term before looking at labelling emotions. Later in the term we will look at what bullying looks like and how this is different from teasing or silly behaviour. We will address what to do if someone is unkind as well as looking at what makes a good friend. Please remind your child to always tell an adult the same day if they are ever upset or worried. |
| Music | In Music Mrs Davies will be exploring melody and how music consists of high and low notes. The children will be taught how to read simple music notation before composing their own short piece. |
| PE | Our new sports coach will be taking Acorn Class for PE on **Thursday afternoon** as well as a session on **Friday morning**. Children will need to bring their PE kit into school to change into. They may leave PE kit at school during the week if this is easier.  This term we are also swimming on **Tuesday afternoons** for 5 sessions. Further details will be sent to you regarding the start date. Swimming continues in Term 2 and Term 3. |

**Homework**

Homework continues to be

* **Daily reading** to an adult using their phonics book or the Accelerated Reader books if they are free readers. Please write in the reading record when you have heard your child read.
* Please continue to read your child a **bedtime story** even if they can read it themselves. Children tell us that having a story read to them is often their favourite time of the day and is a great way for child to hear how to ‘ read like a professional’. They develop their skills with expression as well as with silly voices ! Having a bedtime story is also a key part of a healthy bedtime routine and will help your child to relax after a busy day at school.
* Keep practising the maths skills outlined to you in your **KIRF** ( Key Instant Recall Facts). We will test the children each term to check that they have successfully learnt these skills.
* In years 1 and 2 we will send home work connected to telling the time as this skill is best done more frequently than we have space in the curriculum for. Begin with telling the time to the nearest o’clock, then reading the time to the half hour, then quarter past and quarter to before telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes. Please practise as many times a week as you can as telling the time needs a lot of work and the skills are very easily forgotten if not regularly practised ( I speak from experience as a mum !)

**Don’t forget !**

To send your child to school with their

* coat ( we play in the rain !)
* sun hat and cream if it is hot and sunny
* water bottle
* book bag
* PE kit on Thursday, Friday
* Swimming kit on Tuesdays ( 5 sessions – look out for the starting date)

**A little plea**

Please can you ensure that all school uniform and PE kit is named. This can be done with a label or simply with a permanent marker. Now that we are changing for PE this is even more crucial. We have a large selection of lost property in school both uniform and PE kit which are unnamed and unclaimed. Many thanks.

**Keeping in touch**

Please let me know about any worries or concerns as soon as possible as these are far easier to resolve this way. I am available for a chat after school everyday except Wednesdays when it is staff meeting. If you prefer, you can leave a message with the school office.

Many thanks and kind regards

Mrs Spring