



Acorn Class Miss Brockwell

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The theme of our Topic work this term will be India. This is a whole school topic which Sapling and Oak classes will be exploring too.

What we will be doing

This term we will be finding out all about life in India. We will be comparing our lives, environment and experiences with those of children living in India.

Why we will be doing it

This topic offers an opportunity for the children to make comparisons between their own lives, environments and experiences and those of children in another country. We will be exploring the full range of environments in India, from jungles, to deserts, rural villages to big cities. We will also be looking at Hinduism and building up towards a whole school day celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi. This term our focus will be on extending the children's Geography knowledge and understanding of History and on their Literacy skills through writing about the things they have found out.

How you can help

In Literacy this term we will be continuing to look at spelling and grammar features of writing including reading and writing contractions with apostrophes (for example I'm, didn't) and remembering the double letter at the end of words (i.e. words which end in ll, ff, zz, ss, and ck). Once we have practised using these skills on their own, we will move on to using them in our writing as an additional opportunity to practise. We will also be making sure the children continue to use the prefix un- and the suffixes -ing, -ed, -er, -est, -s and -es which we learned last term. You can support our work at home by encouraging your child to write any every opportunity, at school we will be writing about the things we learn about India but at home they could write about anything that interests them. When helping the children to spell, we are now moving on the saying the letter names rather than sounding out the word to help them distinguish between different ways to spell the same sounds. During writing this term we will also be continuing to focus on making sure the letters are formed correctly as this will help with joined up writing when they go into Year 2.

Year 1 Literacy Skills Goals this term:
To form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
To use letter names to distinguish between different spellings of a sound.

To read and write simple contractions, e.g. I'm, I'll, we'll, and understand the role of the apostrophe.
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To begin to apply spelling rules.

In Maths we will be focusing on learning our number bonds to 10 off by heart and using them to create subtraction sentences (i.e. $10 - 6 = 4$). When the children have mastered this skill we will be moving on to learning the number bonds to 20. Number bonds is an important skill to learn as it can help the children solve calculations quickly in later years. Later on in the term we will be exploring money; identifying different coins and notes and understanding their value to make different amounts. You can support these skills at home by encouraging your child to use coins to make small purchases and by reinforcing their numbers bonds throughout the day.

Year 1 Maths Skills Goals this term:

To represent and use number bonds and subtraction facts within 10.
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To represent and use number bonds and subtraction facts within 20.
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To recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.
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In Topic we will be using the book 'Letters Home from India' which follows a child's journey around a number of different Indian cities. In their letters they mention local landmarks, traditions, foods, animals and industries which we will use as a starting point for our own investigations.

We will be finding out about the similarities and differences between our own experiences and those of Indian children in each region. In Geography we will be finding out about the different environments and climates in different areas of India. In Science we will be discovering the wide variety of animals in each different environment. In PSCHEEe we will be exploring the experiences of children in different areas of India, i.e. in rural villages and in big cities. In RE we will be finding out about the different religions followed in India and how they have shaped Indian culture, including the Muslim emperor who built the Taj Mahal, the significance of the Ganges for Hindus and the Buddhist monasteries at the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. We will be focusing predominately on Hinduism as the majority religion in India and building up towards a whole school celebration of the Festival of Holi on Monday 13th March.

At home you can support our topic work by encouraging your child to continue to explore the aspects of the topic which interest them most in further detail and sharing the multi-cultural influences (not just Indian) all around them.

Year 1 Topic Skills Goals this term:

To understand similarities and differences in the physical and human geography between our area and a contrasting country.

To identify climate and seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and a contrasting country.

To join in with a group composition using tuned instruments.

To perform dances using simple movement patterns.

To begin to respond positively to the diversity and similarity of individuals and groups, including questioning stereotypes.

To show curiosity and respect for the beliefs and traditions of others.

To identify similarities and differences between the ways people celebrate special events.