



May 2015

Dear parents and carers of children in year one,

Welcome back after the Easter break, we hope you had a lovely time. Our topic this term is 'Africa' and we have lots of exciting things planned including an African dance workshop and a trip to The Horniman Museum.

Literacy

In literacy this term, we will be exploring a range of genres including the fabulous 'Tinga Tinga Tales' and some oral story telling using 'The Awongalema Tree' story. The children will also be using information books to find out about African animals and creating their own information books. Throughout this term, there will be a focus on the children writing grammatically correct sentences and adding interesting detail.

How you can help your child at home: Continue to read with your child daily. Remember, it doesn't always have to be your child reading to you. Sharing the reading is just as important as children are then getting the opportunity to listen to the story being read aloud with expression and can concentrate on absorbing the story language. Please ask your child questions about the books you are reading using the suggested list of questions given out at the last parent's meeting. Please write the title of the book you have read with a quick comment in their reading diary too.

Maths

In maths we will be continuing to develop children's confidence in using numbers up to 100. This includes being able to read, write and order numbers. The children will be learning about place value, e.g. how many tens and units there are in a number, and looking at how the digits change as you add and take away 1 and 10 from a number. We will be learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. Names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes will be explored e.g. knowing how many edges, faces a shape has. We will be focussing on coin recognition, finding totals and giving change.

How you can help your child at home: Look at money together and get the children to use it in 'real life' situations such as paying for something at a shop. Identify numbers in the world around them (such as house numbers, bus numbers) and discuss how many tens and

units are in a given number, what 1 more or less or 10 more or less would be from a given number. This will help to develop your child's confidence and understanding of number.

Science

In science this term we will learn about why plants are important; how they grow and how we use them. We will identify and name different kinds of plants and look at their features. We will particularly look at seasonal change and how it affects plant growth.

Thematic

Our thematic topic is 'Africa'. We will look at maps of Africa and identify and discuss different areas e.g. towns and the Savannah. We will look at some of the history of Africa and using different techniques in art and design make African paintings and items such as jewellery. We will be exploring African fruit and food. **If anyone has any items at home they would be willing to show to the children or any photos and stories from Africa, or know any African songs, rhymes or games please let us know. We would love our families to be involved in this topic.**

Dates for your diary

The Horniman Museum Trip - Tuesday 16th June

Next half term we have a fantastic trip planned to The Horniman Museum where the children will be involved in African storytelling and looking at African artefacts.

Year one assembly - Thursday 2nd July at 9:15am

If you have any questions or would like to discuss ways to help your child at home, please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Many thanks

Year One Team