January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and are now ready for the new challenges 2019 will bring!

Why Did Elephants Live in Leamington Spa?

To kick off the spring term, our first topic back will be all about the elephants who lived in Leamington Spa. To give you a little background; the first elephant trainer in England was Sam Lockhart, born to a circus family in Leamington in 1850. Sam brought three elephants back from Ceylon and taught them tricks. His circus was a grand building by the River Leam (where the Loft Theatre is now). As part of this topic, we will be learning all about the life of Sam Lockhart as well as the life of the elephants he cared for. We will use the book, ‘Elephants in Royal Leamington Spa’ by Janet Storrie to develop the children’s understanding of the history of Leamington how it has changed over time. To help bring this topic to life we will also be having a circus ‘wow’ day to inspire the children. The date for this will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks. We will also be taking a trip to Leamington Spa centre-looking specifically at its history, finding the ‘Elephant Walk’ in Jephson Gardens, as well as exploring the pump rooms there.
In Science we will be learning about the basic needs of animals—specifically linked to elephants, as well as learning about what foods make up a balanced diet and the importance of regular exercise.

In English, our focus will initially be on elephants. We will begin with non-fiction writing in which the children will write factual sentences, instructions and non-chronological reports. We will then move to a more narrative style of writing using the books, ‘Elmer’ by David Mckee and Peter Spier’s ‘Circus’ as inspiration.

There is certainly lots to look forward to this half term!

**PE**

PE lessons will continue to take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Mondays will be outdoor and Tuesdays indoor. We may vary our lessons depending on the weather so please ensure your child has their PE kit with them all week. Can you also please ensure that your child’s kit is clearly labelled so as to avoid mislaying any items of clothing.

**Home learning**

The children will continue to be given two reading books each week, one on **Wednesdays** and one on **Fridays**. Please make sure that the books from previous weeks are put back in your child’s book bags on these days. The children will also continue to be given weekly spellings related to the sound(s) they work on during the week. A short quiz will take place every Friday morning and then new ones will be sent out the same day. Homework tasks will start being given out half way through this term. If you have any questions as to how you can support your child further with their learning then please do come and ask, I am very happy to help.
Update on Medical information

Please ensure that we are informed of any changes in your child’s medical information and speak to Mrs Kate Wilson if you need to leave any medication in school, e.g. inhalers.

- 4.2.19- Safer Internet Week
- 11.2.19- Science Fair Assembly
- 12.2.19- Science dress up day (Discovery Day)

If you have any worries, questions or concerns about anything, big or small, please don’t hesitate to come and speak to me. I am always happy to help. Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss A Kavanagh (Year One Class Teacher)
Mrs N Davison (Year One Teaching Assistant)
Mrs N Nalci (Year One Class Teacher Thursday afternoons)