

# Mordiford C of E Primary School Learning Newsletter

Welcome to Mordiford C of E Primary School's first Learning Newsletter. The aim of this is to keep you up to date with the work we are doing in school, across all areas of the curriculum, to develop the learning of the children.

## Literacy

This year all children will continue to develop their use of Talk for Writing to support learning of different writing genres. This approach makes sure the children have plenty of opportunity to talk through their writing before putting it down on a piece of paper. The children are also developing their knowledge of a range of stories and texts so they are well versed in different genres. Handwriting is a key skill for children to develop and you can support your child by practising letter formation and always having high expectations for the presentation of homework.

Reading for pleasure is a continued focus for the school and the library has a great range of books that children from all year groups can borrow and enjoy. There are also subscriptions to a range of magazines and the weekly 'First News' paper which is written for primary aged children. Regular reading at home, with a focus on talking about the book is the best way to support your child's progress.

A new spelling scheme is in place across the school. Reception and Year 1 are using Floppy's Phonics to teach the children the sounds letters make and how they are blended and in Year 2-6 we are using Read, Write Inc. Spelling to help the children learn spelling rules and the difficult words to spell. Each day all children will take part in a phonics or spelling session in addition to their literacy lesson.

## Science

This term the school has enjoyed its first topic week of the academic year. All classes took part in a great range of workshops and visits.

The focus for children in our science work is to help them understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave and analyse why something has happened. Asking questions, learning how to conduct fair tests and developing their scientific knowledge are key for children at all ages of primary school education.



## A Thinking School

This academic year the staff at Mordiford are looking to develop the children's thinking skills. Teachers will be using a range of questioning strategies to help the children explore their ideas and extend their higher-order thinking. Questions come in two groups. 'Lower Order' questions are generally closed and may require a one word answer, they will usually have a right or wrong answer and are based around a child remembering something they have learnt. 'Higher Order' questions are more open, they often start with 'how', 'why' or 'which' and require children to think. There is usually not a right or wrong answer and have a range of possible responses, including opinions and the chance to express ideas which can be explained. Asking children to explain their ideas and taking the time to share opinions and why they think something is a great support.

## Music

This year we are looking to build on the school's excellent musical reputation by engaging in more large scale music events while also putting into practice an online music resource to support with music teaching in the classroom.

## Art

All children will have the chance to make use of a greater range of artistic techniques including screen printing, batik, silk painting and press printing.

# Mordiford C of E Primary School Learning Newsletter

## Maths

This year, we will continue to focus on fluency and mastery in maths. In all classes, there will be an emphasis on the application of knowledge and skills and their transference to new situations and problems. To support this all children will take part in daily 'Basic Skills' sessions. The sessions last for 10-15 minutes and focus on pace value, the four operations, number bonds and other key maths building blocks. The children will also have access to 'Help Stations' in the classrooms where they will be able to select practical resources to support their understanding. They will also be expected to learn key number facts appropriate to their age (e.g. times tables, number bonds and doubles).

Opportunities for cross-curricular learning and approaches to mathematics teaching will be identified by class teachers and put into use to consolidate learning in real-world and practical contexts.

Maths displays will continue to be present in every class and around school. These will reflect current work as well as modelling the key maths vocabulary.

In common with the wider curriculum, we will be promoting higher order thinking and problem solving skills as creatively as possible, for example through engagement with activities from Cambridge University's Nrich program, which has a range of challenges and problems for the children to solve.

## Modern Foreign Languages

All children in Key Stage 2 are learning French as their main language of focus this year. This will be through a range of lessons and activities and in many classes can be seen in displays and calendars. The aim of our languages work in school is to foster pupil's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. There are a range of good apps and online activities that support the learning of foreign languages.

## DT

A Design and Technology fortnight is being planned for later in the academic year! More information will be given out nearer the time.

## PE

The school has been awarded the 'School Sports Bronze Award' for its commitment to PE and competition last year. To build on this good work 10 children have been chosen to form Mordiford's School Sport Crew. The Crew have been trained to run a lunchtime club and will lead assemblies and meetings to promote school sport and healthy living. All classes are engaging with daily physical activity (such as the Daily Mile) to support healthy living and so far this year the school's Football Team have taken part in two tournaments at Much Birch Primary School.

The goals of our PE sessions are to develop the children's ability in a range of sports, become physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sports and activities and to lead healthy, active lives.



## Computing

Children from Year 5 and 6 have taken part in training to become Digital Leaders and will be supporting the use of new apps and programmes across the school. Children in Year 5 and Reception have already designed objects and printed them using a 3-d printer. The school has also used Lego Wedo where children use Lego and the iPads to create programmes. By the end of primary school the children are now expected to design, write and debug programs, use algorithms and understand computing networks. As ever we are also focusing on using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

## Global

The school is looking into future twinning projects as well as the possibility of developing our links with other schools across Europe to support the children's understanding of the world around us.