

Benwick Primary School



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Robin Class Link Up – Spring Term 2018

Welcome back to a new term in Robin Class! I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas; it certainly sounds like the children have! We've got an exciting term coming up where the children will continue to build on all the fantastic skills they have developed in recent months.

Just a couple of quick reminders; don't forget that Forest School sessions take place on a Thursday morning and in the current colder weather the children will need to be well wrapped up in waterproof clothing. I apologise that we had to cancel a couple of sessions before Christmas but this was due to the very cold and icy conditions we were experiencing. Hopefully it will be smoother sailing from now on!

During the Autumn Term I sent home a letter about 'Wow Moments' and attached some 'Wow!' cards to it. 'Wow Moments' are an opportunity for you to share anything your child does at home that you are really proud of; these don't have to be purely academic and can be things like sharing nicely with a sibling or joining in with any family traditions you may have. A few examples we have had in recent weeks are crossing the road sensibly, trying hard to write their name, weighing out ingredients when making a cake and writing the word 'mum' independently. It would be absolutely fantastic if you could send these in to add to our own observations of how your child is progressing; if you would like more 'Wow Moment' cards we have plenty in the classroom so please pop in and take some.

Our topic for this term is 'On Safari'. We have already started work on this and have particularly been thinking about different safari animals and the African story 'Handa's Surprise'. At the start of the topic we located Africa on 'Google Earth' and all the children were (and continue to be!) fascinated with using the app to look at different places; if this is something you have on a laptop or tablet at home I am sure they will enjoy exploring it with you!

As mentioned above, we have begun our Safari work with the story 'Handa's Surprise' and this will form the basis of our Literacy work for the next two weeks. We have already drawn, tasted and labelled the different exotic fruits that feature in the story and have started to use the 'Talk for Writing' technique to learn the story off by heart. Later in the term we will be doing lots of reading and writing linked to other books set in Africa such as 'Giraffes Can't Dance', 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt' and 'We All Went on Safari'.

Our Safari theme will also extend into our Mathematics work – this week, we have worked hard on weighing and counting linked to the fruits in 'Handa's Surprise'. In the coming weeks we have lots of fun Maths activities planned such as sorting Safari animals by their features, making pictograms

of our favourite animals, making repeating-pattern bead snakes and using our 'Small World' safari animals to support work on adding, subtracting, doubling and halving.

The topic of Safari lends itself very well to work on 'Understanding the World'; not only will we continue to study safari animals and their habitats, but we will also be thinking about the weather and climate in Africa and using the fruits from 'Handa's Surprise' to think about healthy eating and how plants grow. In our 'Expressive Arts and Design' sessions, we will be listening and moving to 'The Carnival of the Animals' by Camille Saint-Saens, using the instruments to recreate the sounds of different safari animals and using paint-washing to create African sunset pictures – to name just a few of the activities we have planned!

Our PE sessions will continue to be on a Friday this term so please make sure your child has their full PE kit in school on this day.

I have been so proud of all the achievements the children have had so far this year and I am sure that they will continue to dazzle me in the coming months. Their progress is amazing. I really appreciate all of your support from home and, as always, if you have any questions about school life please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Johnson