



Poplar – Term 1b

Values of the term: Love and Peace

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you have had a fun, relaxing half term. Our topic this term is **Monsters** – please have a look at the topic web to see the exciting learning that will be happening. If you feel you can support our learning in any way then please let us know.

Morning and end of school day routine

Registration is at 8.50am in the classroom. The children have the opportunity to take part in daily fitness between 8.40am – 8.50am. At the end of the day the children will be lined up on the playground at 3.15pm. If a different adult is picking up your child then please let us know in advance.

Show and tell

This has been a great success so far. It is so lovely to hear about what the children do when out of school and for the children to be speaking so confidently and clearly to their friends and answering questions so well. I have also been impressed by the thoughtful questions that have been asked.

The Show and Tell timetable is on the most recent homework letter in your child's homework book.

Homework

Thank you for all of your support with homework. Homework will continue to be sent out on a Wednesday to be returned please on the following Tuesday. An information sheet will be provided of the learning that has taken place that week and ideas/suggested activities of how you can support at home.

Reading

During term time, Children take home **one** reading book which will be at their book band colour and **one** book from the class library and/or **one** book from the school library. If your child has more than three books in their book bag please can they return them for other children to read. Children have the opportunity to change their books daily. Please just write the title of the book and 'finished' in their reading records. I have written in their reading records what colour book they should be reading and will update this every time they progress through the book band colours.

Children choose their own book within a colour that has been allocated to them by the Class Teacher; this is to ensure children enjoy reading but also the book is within their current reading ability. In each colour there is a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry to choose from. Children change their books independently and as they are learning to do this will sometimes end up with the wrong colour – if this happens please ask them to get the correct colour the next day. Any book can be chosen from the school or class library.

Please aim for 10 minutes reading time a day. If you feel that your child's book is too challenging or not challenging enough then please let us know – a bit of challenge is always good but not so much that the meaning of the text is lost.

Reading rewards

Your child has a bookmark with small circles on. Please initial and date in the circles when they have read to an adult. When the bookmark is full they will show it to Mrs Leach to be praised! They will then get a new bookmark to fill up.



PE and outdoor activity

PE is on a Monday and Wednesday but this may change so please make sure your child has their full kit in every day and that it is clearly labelled with their name.

Nativity

It is that exciting time of year already! Poplar Class and Oak Class will join together this year to perform our school nativity: Lights, Camel, Action! The main speaking parts will go to Year 2 children with supporting roles from Year 1 and Reception. Parts and scripts will be given out this week.

Website

Our class page is updated regularly with updates on our learning – please have a look and what we have been learning about - <http://www.st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk/category/poplar/>

SumDog

Each child has a personal SumDog account – log ins details are in their homework book and they have a laminated copy in their school tray. This is a maths program that uses games to motivate and develop ability in maths; it is set to the Key Stage 1 curriculum but automatically adapts to your child's needs and questions are tailored to individual learning (so please do not let anyone else e.g. siblings play on your child's account as it will influence the games). You can use SumDog through the website www.sumdog.com (if you do this I would recommend using an old Internet Explorer browser because it uses Adobe Flash Player) or download the free iPad or Android app (there are two versions – 2D and 3D; it makes no difference which one you download). Children can also change their avatar and earn points (by playing the games) to buy items in a virtual world.

Parents can also have a free Sumdog login. Just visit www.sumdog.com and click the Parents link at the bottom right. This lets you keep in touch with your child's effort, so you can give encouragement. Please let me know how your child gets on with SumDog – it has been very successful in the past so I am hoping the children enjoy it and it helps to develop their learning!

If you would like to talk to me at any time in the year please do not hesitate to come and speak to me at the end of the school day or book an appointment with the office at a convenient time.

I hope you and your child have a lovely term in Poplar.

Mrs McDaid and the Poplar team.

Useful dates

Parents' Evening – Wednesday 1st November
Watermill Theatre – Wednesday 29th November
Oak and Poplar Nativity – Tuesday 5th December
Stay and Play – Thursday 14th December