



# Year 1 Spring 2 Newsletter



Our topic is "Do dragons exist?"

**Fantastic start:** We will be going on a dragon hunt but what might we find?

## English



In English, we will be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction texts as a class. Focused fiction texts include "The egg", "Puff the magic dragon" and "There's no such thing as a dragon." We will also be looking at a selection of non-fiction books about reptiles.

When reading and writing, children will continue to be encouraged to break down unfamiliar words using phonic strategies and to discuss what they have read and/or written.

When writing, children will be encouraged to use Talk for Writing methods to support their learning and re-read and check their work to ensure capital letters, finger spaces and full stops are used.

Children will take part in daily phonic sessions as well as having daily English lessons.

## Geography



In geography, we will continue to develop our map skill by creating imaginary and real-life maps. We will be incorporating the use of map symbols, keys and compass directions to orientate maps.

## History

In history, we will consider dragons from mythical and traditional stories. We will be looking at the legend of Loch Ness and St. George and the dragon.



## Computing

Children will get to experience the 'Quiver' program where they can bring drawings to life.

Children will also be learning about how to use a computer and internet safely.



## Maths

Children will be consolidating prior learning and using known strategies to support their learning when adding and subtracting numbers within 20.

This will then be extended to investigating numbers to 50 by counting, comparing and ordering numbers. Children will also be identifying the value of each digit and recognising the number of tens and ones in given numbers.

Lastly, children will be looking at how to estimate and measure length and height.



## Science

During Science, the children will be revisiting prior learning on different animal categories and will sort animals according to their own criteria.

The children will also observe and identify a snap dragon plant and care for this within the classroom. They will draw and label the main parts of the plant.



## Design Technology

The children will be using papier-mache techniques to create their very own dragon egg. They will use finishing techniques to add colour, texture and pattern to their design.



The children will be investigating healthy food groups and making dragon models and pictures using fruit and vegetables.

## P.E.

In P.E. this term, we will be doing skipping, yoga and athletics. Athletics will be taught on each Friday afternoon by Premier Education.



## Art and Design Technology



In art, we will develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. Children will draw and paint pictures of dragons, take rubbings using different surfaces and practise overlapping techniques in order to make a collage.

## R.E.

*The principal aim of R.E. is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.*



Children will continue to study Islam for this term. They will give examples of how stories about the Prophet Muhammad show what Muslims believe about him. They will give examples of how Muslims use stories about the Prophet to guide their beliefs and actions (e.g. care for creation, fast in Ramadan). At the end of the unit, children will be able to give examples of how Muslims put their beliefs about prayer and about Allah into action (e.g. by daily prayer, by using *subhah* beads).

## Music



In music, we will be using tuned and un-tuned instruments to accompany a piece of music. We will be singing a range of songs of different styles and tempos.

## HOMWORK:

**Topic:** We would like to ask you to make a model of a dragon. Please use junk modelling materials and we ask that the models are no bigger than 30-40cm.

Please bring your model into school by *Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2019*. We will keep these in school until the end of the topic.

**Reading:** Please try to read with your child daily. We cannot emphasise enough the benefits of children reading, appreciating and developing love for books. Likewise, reading can be in many forms such as magazines, comics or even words on the karaoke.

**Spelling:** We will continue with spellings from the Lawnside rainbow spelling program. The children will receive a set of words to practise each week. They will then be tested on these the following week. If children complete these successfully they will get new spellings.

Our **P.E. days** are:

Thursday morning & Friday afternoon

Please ensure your child has their full P.E. kit in school on appropriate days. Children will need outdoor plimsolls or preferably trainers as school shoes are **not** acceptable for P.E. lessons. Please ensure that earrings are out and long hair is tied back also.

## Fantastic Finish:

At the end of this topic we will answer our question as to whether dragons really exist and celebrate the topic by watching the film, "How to train your dragon." We will be giving out permission slips nearer the time as this is a PG rated film.

## Dates for your diary:

**7<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day  
**w/c: 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Sports Week  
(more details to follow)