


Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p>This half term in fiction writing, your child will study the story Meerkat Mail. They will then share their opinions on the text and develop an understanding of backing an opinion with a point. They will begin to embellish the story as they write 'postcards' from Sunny the Meerkat to his family. Each day they will practise writing complex sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces as non-negotiables. They will also consolidate their prior learning of similes, adjectives, conjunctions (e.g. but, so), sentence openers, question openers and appropriate punctuation in order to create exciting extended sentences.</p>
	<p>Excitingly, your child will also be studying poetry this half term. They will explore what a poem is, before looking at rhymes and riddles. They will orally rehearse a range of poems, developing an awareness of their audience ahead of a fabulous performance to Nursery later in the half term. They will use a confident voice as a non-negotiable but also develop their expression, tone and volume control to ensure that the poem is a performance not just a recital.</p>
	<p>Exposing your child to a range of text types will really support their awareness of audience and purpose this half term. Writing in a range of different genres is always encouraged.</p>
Writing	<p><b>Nelson Handwriting</b> As we continue our journey to outstanding handwriting, we will be focussing heavily on ascenders (letters that are tall) and descenders (letters that are long). As ever your child is practising with a 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. As we move towards the end of the year we will be inviting children who are ready to join all of their letters.</p> 
	<p>You could support by practising ascenders and descenders by keeping a close eye out for any inconsistencies.</p>
Reading	<p><b>Sounds-Write (Phonics)</b> Your child will continue to practise their skills of segmenting, blending and phoneme manipulation. All children are working hard to read words of one, two and three syllables. We are also working especially hard on adjacent consonants e.g. <b>spr</b>-ing and <b>shr</b>-ed. Please use your phonics packs to work on your child's specific targets.</p> <p><b>Whole Class Reading</b> This half term your child will continue to read as part of a large group. We will focus on decoding words and strengthening their comprehension as we begin to look at inference questions, e.g. What virtue does this character lack? How do you know that?</p>
	<p>Following on from our Spring 2 family learning session, it is vital that you are reading with your child every day. As the <u>Phonics Challenge</u> creeps ever closer, please use your packs to <u>keep reading high on your agenda</u>.</p>
Mathematics	<p>This term your child will be immersed in multiplication. The children will start to group objects by making sure they are equal and use multiplication language such as 2 groups of 3 or 5 groups of 4. Next, they will move on to multiplying equal rows, for example, if I organised some cookies into 5 equal rows and 5 equal columns, I would need to work out 5 groups of 5. The children will also be learning about doubles, for example, when doubling a number, you must always add the same number to itself. We will also explore this in greater depth by relating it to the two times table. Finally, the children will be immersed in everyday word problems. For example, there are six sandwiches in one box. How many sandwiches are there in 3 boxes? Once we have a solid understanding of multiplication, we will begin to</p>

	<p>explore division. Building on their prior knowledge from early years, we will discuss how we divide numbers into equal groups and following that, how it also relates to multiplication. Lastly we will begin learning how to tell the time. They will start by learning to tell the time by the hour and then moving on to telling the time by every half hour. Next, they will start to estimate time and finally compare different types of time, for example, digital and analogue.</p>
	<p>You could continue to support your child by helping them to tell the time. You could also support your child by grouping objects equally at home and helping them to be immersed in multiplication language, for example, five groups of four sweets. You could support with division by sharing objects out into equal groups. For example, dividing 9 coins into 3 equal groups.</p>
<p><b>Core Knowledge</b></p>	<p>In R.E the children will explore the Christian story of Noah's Ark They will unpick the idea of a 'miracle' before reflecting on the moral of the story.</p> <p>In <b>Science</b> this half term the children will be learning about plants. They will carry out an investigation which centers on observing over time. The children will explore what a plant needs to grow by depriving their seeds of water or light. The children will also learn the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees as they classify and discuss.</p> <p>In <b>Geography</b> your child will be learning about the Continents and Oceans. They will begin by singing songs about oceans and continents. Next, they will revise the equator line and begin to explore how this impacts the climate, for example, Antarctica is the coldest continent because it is the furthest away from the equator. They will also explore countries and cultures within those continents.</p>
	<p>You could support by talking about the different countries within that continent. For example, we live in Britain, however, Britain is a part of Europe.</p>
<p><b>Character</b></p>	<p>Your child will be learning about service and gratitude this term. Showing service is when you help others and do not expect anything in return. For example, helping a parent with the cleaning or helping a friend when they are in need. Your child will also be learning about the value, gratitude. Gratitude is when one is appreciative and thankful to those around them. This term we will be working on a service learning project to give service to the people around us.</p>
	<p>You can support your child's learning by recognising the services that help your family e.g. doctors, dentists, dust bin collectors.</p>
<p><b>Art</b></p>	<p>This term we will be exploring 'Children in Art'. Your children will be exploring how art tells us about different people who have lived. For example, older paintings such as Hogarth and The Graham Children. The children will also be labelling and explaining different features of paintings, such as, line, shape and position. Next the children will start to explore the technique of cubism. The unit will culminate in creating their own paintings by accumulating all of their knowledge.</p>
	<p>You could support your child at home by looking at different types of old paintings on the internet or even visit the National Portrait Gallery. You could discuss what the paintings tell us about older life and how they may be different to our life today.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p>	<p>In weekly music lessons this term we are exploring choral singing and signing in a round. The children will learn a range of sounds that link to plants, continents and oceans and weather. We will continue to learn a range of Spanish songs to support our language acquisition.</p>
	<p>You could support by singing songs together or by making homemade instruments.</p>
<p><b>P.E and Tennis</b></p>	<p>To prepare the children in Year 1 for Sports Day they will be given lots of practice in the events they will be taking part in on the day. The lessons will coach the children for each event so that they feel confident to give everything a go. Opening them up to a competitive environment will be new to the children and thus the main focus will be developing their 'give it a go' attitude.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child eats a healthy, balanced diet and arrives at school having eaten a nutritious breakfast. Details of our breakfast club are available from the School Office.</p>