



Byland Class Newsletter - Spring 2 Term 2021

Dear Parents,

A huge welcome back to school! We have missed having you all in school so much, let's hope we can enjoy the rest of this half term all being together again. Hopefully with some lovely weather.....!

Our topic this term is '**Farming**', we will start by looking at 'Field to Fork' and where our food comes from. Then moving onto farming in the past and what differences we have with machinery in the present day. We will look at significant local person 'James Herriot' and explore what his role was within farming and how he cared for the animals on a farm.

Our science topic for this half term is **Minibeasts**. We will be going on a 'Minibeast Hunt' and learning about their different habitats. We will then be looking at the lifecycles of some different minibeasts. The children will develop their scientific enquiry skills through a range of practical activities such as identifying and classifying, carrying out fair tests, observing over time and pattern seeking.

In **English** we will be looking at some Spring Poetry and the children will write their own poems about spring using their senses.

The Year 1 children will be learning how to make their writing more interesting with the use of adjectives and different connectives and we will re-cap the rules for using suffixes (s and es for plurals and ed for past tense). In addition, there will be a daily phonics session where the children will re-cap the sounds already taught and continue to learn alternative graphemes for a sound (ai can be written as ay and also using a split digraph a-e as in late) along with more tricky words.

The Reception children will continue with their phonics work and will also join in with our spring poetry activities. We will re-cap all the digraphs taught and then the children will learn new sounds made up of three letters (trigraphs) such as ear, air and ure, along with some new tricky words.

These will be added to your child's sound book for practise at home. Please continue to support your child with their sounds and reading at home - it really does make such a difference.

In **Maths** we will finish off our current topic of measure looking at 'weight and volume'. Moving on to some time to recap addition/ subtraction and place value to 20 and 50 for Yr1 to help us identify any gaps the children may have. Please remember to continue to use Mathletics to support your child's mental arithmetic skills, all passwords are in the front of their reading records.

This term **PE** will continue to be on a Thursday afternoon and the children should come to school dressed in their PE kits and school jumpers to avoid the need to get changed. The children will be working on their gymnastics skills with our coach from Simon Carson. We will be working both indoors and outside so please provide warm joggers, a school hoodie / zip up top and trainers for the changeable weather.

In **RE** our learning will be focused around the celebration of Easter. We will be thinking about what Easter means to Christians and how we prepare for the celebration. We will also enjoy lots of different activities linked to 'The Easter Story'.

Forest School sessions will continue on Monday afternoons with Mr Houghton. The children should come to school with warm outdoor clothing (coat and layers), trainers, and their school jumper. Please provide a pair of named wellies to be worn for Forest School and for our outdoor area. Ideally, wellies should be left in school.

Homework

We are still unable to send **Reception** learning journeys home at the moment so we will continue to send observations via 'Evidence Me' each week. When your child is one of our target children, we will send a photo of the extra observations through Class dojo. Please continue to add observations onto Evidence Me for us to see what the children have been doing at home. This is a vital part of your child's assessment and we would expect to see some form of involvement from yourselves over the weekends. The children enjoy sharing what they have been doing at the weekends with the rest of the class each Monday morning.

Yr1 - The children will continue to receive spellings each Friday which will then be tested the following Friday. The children's spellings will be uploaded onto Google Classroom weekly. In addition, the children can access activities on Spelling shed from home to support their spelling knowledge. Please continue to support your children with reading at home on a regular basis - this really does make such a difference to their confidence and fluency. Please write in their reading record once they have read to let us know how they have got on.

Reading

Just a reminder that in addition to the daily phonics session, Reception children will be read with 1-1 twice each week.

Y1 children will be read with once 1-1 and will participate in one guided reading session per week. The children will have their books changed once per week after reading with a member of staff and practising their book at home. If you would like your child's books changing more regularly than this, there will be an opportunity for them to change their books each morning before registration. The children will change their books independently in this time and let a member of staff know so we can keep an up to date record. All books that return from home will then be quarantined before re-issuing to another child.

We will continue to issue notices and reminders using Class Dojo so please do look out for them. Please continue to message us with any queries or questions relating to your child and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

If on any occasion, you would like to speak to us rather than message then please let us know via the Byland e mail account (or on Class dojo) and we can organise a mutually convenient time to contact by phone.

Thank you for your ongoing support- hopefully onwards and upwards for some kind of normality very soon!

Mrs Tyrka and Mrs Bennison