



## Half Term Newsletter : November 2011 Penguin Class

**This half term we will be reading stories and poems by significant children's authors.**

### Literacy

This half term we will be listening to, reading and performing poems from '*Mustard, Custard, Grumble-belly and Gravy*' by Michael Rosen. We will also be writing simple poems based on ones we have read. We will also be comparing different stories by the children's author **Anthony Browne**. We will be using role-play to explore some of the themes in the stories and retelling them (both orally and written). In non-fiction we will be writing book reviews and letters to Anthony Browne.

Phonics and handwriting will form part of our daily literacy work.

Tiger, Penguin and Flamingo class teachers will be planning together.

### Things you can do to help

Please continue your good work with daily reading practice. When reading with your child encourage them to use strategies such as sounding out/breaking the word down and reading to the end of the sentence. Give your child every opportunity to talk about what they have read. Ask them about which part they enjoyed most or found interesting, and encourage them to give reasons.

Every Friday your child will be bringing home some spellings for him/her to learn. The spelling lists will help to reinforce the spelling patterns and high frequency words that we have been learning in school. A letter will be sent home explaining how best to support your child with this homework.

We are having a big focus on improving handwriting. On the back of this letter is a sheet showing the correct letter formation. Please use this when completing the spelling homework or doing any other form of writing at home. Remember to check that your child is sitting comfortably, holding their pencil correctly and have their piece of paper in the correct position.

### Maths

We will be covering the following areas in our maths work this half term.

#### Shape

We will be learning: the names of common 2-D and 3-D shapes; to identify shapes from pictures of them in different positions and orientations; to sort, make and describe shapes, referring to their properties.

#### Securing number facts

We will be: developing our recall of all addition and subtraction facts for each number to at least 10, all pairs with totals to 20 and all pairs of multiples of 10 with totals up to 100; introducing the children to multiplication and learning facts in the 2, 5 and 10 times tables; recognising multiples; doubling and halving numbers.

#### Data handling and measuring

We will be: collecting information to answer questions and using graphs, lists and tables to show what we have found out; sorting objects and talking about how we have sorted them; measuring things using metres and centimetres; using balance scales to find out if something is heavier or lighter than a kilogram.

#### Things you can do to help

Go on a shape hunt around your home or in your street. Which 2-D and 3-D shapes can you find? Can you name them? Can you describe their properties?

Please work on the above areas on the curriculum section of the Mathletics website. I will be checking online to see how many children have earned a certificate! Please speak with me if your child does not have their Mathletics log-on and password.

Your child can also develop their mental maths skills by playing Live Mathletics. Please let me know if you need another copy of the website address and your child's login details.

We have begun the Maths Mountain challenge. Our class volunteers, Heather P. and Sara T. are up and running and come weekly to work with the children. Please help your child climb the mountain they are working on with regular practice on your child's target.

### Other areas

In science we will be investigating light and dark.

In DT we will be designing and making vehicles.

In art we will be exploring art from around the world. In particular we will be investigating Pop Art.

In RE we will be exploring the theme of light and dark. We will also be learning the Christmas story.

In PSHE we will also be exploring the theme of 'Getting on and falling out'.

#### Things you can do to help

Look for sources of light around the home/in the street. How many can you find?

Collect pictures and models of vehicles and bring them to school aid discussion on the purpose of the different vehicles.

Look at books about vehicles to extend their knowledge of how vehicles work and their purposes.

Find stories and poems that include vehicles or are about light and dark.

### General News

Our main PE day is Tuesday. Please make sure that your child brings tee-shirt shorts/leggings on this day.

Please save and send in clean junk for our model making table. We especially need cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, plastic trays, and bits and bobs such as corks and lids. Thank you!

If you could spare a box of tissues to get us through the winter months it would be very much appreciated.

### Diary dates

Arts Week: 7-11<sup>th</sup> November (Arts Around the World)

School Closure: 14<sup>th</sup> November

Anti-bullying week: 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November

Class assembly: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (910am)

Parent/Teacher meetings: Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Class teacher:** *Patrice Fentiman*

**Headteacher:**