



**Term:** Spring 2 2024  
**Year Group:** Blue Class

*"I hope that we all will live Lent well, following Jesus and carrying within us a ray of his love for all those we meet."*

**Pope Francis**

## **Information for Parents**

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. We hope that you and your family had a restful and enjoyable week.

Spring is definitely on its way! The Spring bulbs are out and the days are gradually becoming lighter and warmer.

During this period of Lent, it is a perfect time for the children to reflect upon their personal goals, attitude to learning and the choices that they make at school and at home.

As it states in **The Wednesday Word**, (taken from the Gospel of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Mark1:12-15- The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B):

*"Lent is a special time when the church invites everyone to examine their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God and with each other. It is a time to make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others. Ask your child what the word 'Lent' means to them. What has your child been learning at school about Lent and about Lenten promises? You may want to tell your child something that you know about Lent. Each of you say if there is anything you would like to start or stop doing this Lent and then make a Lenten promise. Perhaps you could: give up just five or ten minutes of TV, computer or social media time each day and use that time for extra prayer; make sure to read God's Word in the Bible or in The Wednesday Word each week; go to Church together; fast from a meal or snack and give the money saved to charity. Can you think of anything else-something which will help you to grow in love for God and each other throughout this Lenten season?"*

**Please help your child to develop positive, life-long learning behaviours at home, as well as in school, by encouraging them to:**

- Show **curiosity** and **creativity** by discussing their homework with you, asking questions related to their learning, suggesting ideas and going a little bit deeper by researching a topic and presenting their findings in a creative way.
- Demonstrate **concentration** by finding a quiet area in which to study and organising what they need to complete their homework
- Show **perseverance, resilience and effort**, by trying their best, not giving up when things become a little challenging and completing homework to the best of their ability
- Demonstrate **teamwork** by speaking to their class teacher before the due date if they need assistance or clarification and ensuring that they hand homework in on time, so that they can work together with their teacher and classmates when revising learning and addressing misconceptions.


*Dear Lord Jesus, please help me and my family to grow in love and strength during Lent through keeping our Lenten promises.*

**Amen**

**Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Tigers</b>	<b>Lions</b>
<b>English</b>	<p>We will be reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction books linked to our History topic of 'Significant Explorers'. We will be learning about the distinguishing features of fiction and non-fiction books. We will continue to use our exciting sentences to complete writing activities focusing on a variety of genres, whilst expanding our vocabulary and understanding of punctuation. Through these books the children will complete tasks such as, writing letters, diary entries, adverts, non-fiction reports and fact files. We will also read a variety of poems and begin to write some of our own. We will continue to develop and improve upon our handwriting.</p> <p>Tigers will receive Phonics sessions and be read with every day.</p>	<p>Lions will continue developing their join attention and concentration skills. This is through a range of intervention including Attention Autism.</p> <p>We are working to develop our communication skills through intensive interaction sessions.</p> <p>We will continue to mark make and develop our early writing skills.</p> <p>We are developing our phonetic awareness through Foundation Phonics.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>As we begin this half term we will be initially focusing on 'Addition and Subtraction', using pictorial representations, the crossing out method and by counting forwards and backwards. Following this we will be moving onto 'Numbers to 50'. This will require further work on grouping into tens and ones, using part- whole models and ten frames. The children will compare quantity using &lt;, &gt; and = symbols. They will use their understanding of place value to support them to order and represent these numbers within their work. We will then conclude this topic by counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s.</p>	<p>We will be reviewing and then continuing our work around number. Children practice sorting, matching, ordering and comparing numbers on a daily basis.</p> <p>Children work with adults in small groups or one to one setting, rotating from activity to activity, completing each one with increasing independence.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>In RE we will be beginning to learn about Lent and Easter. The children will explore how we change and grow. They will also understand that Lent is a time for change in preparation for the celebration of Easter. We will begin the topic by discussing meals which are special to us</p>	<p>In RE we will be learning about special meals and food that is important to us. We will be learning about Easter.</p> <p>In RE we will continue to take moments of quiet reflection.</p>

	<p>before connecting this to the Last Supper. The children will explore the different events surrounding Easter, including Palm Sunday and Jesus and the story of 'The Money Lenders', before finally exploring how Jesus gave his life for us and how God our Father raised him to new life at Easter.</p>	
<b>Science</b>	<p>This half term we will continue our work learning about plants. We will explore the different plants we see around us, including deciduous and evergreen trees. We will take part in a survey of trees in our local environment, identifying and learning the names of some common trees. We will use the information to create a graph and identify the most common types of trees in our local area. We will learn to identify common plants, to name the different parts of a plant and begin to learn about what plants need in order to grow. We will learn about weather changes across the seasons and looking for signs of spring.</p>	<p>This half term we will continue to learn about the seasonal changes that we see around us. Children will explore the seasons through sensory play and seasonal appropriate activities.</p>
<b>History/ Geography</b>	<p>Our History topic this half term focuses on 'Significant Explorers'. The children will find out about the lives of various famous explorers including Ibn Battuta, Neil Armstrong, Matthew Henson and Felicity Aston. We will learn about their incredible missions and the things we have learnt from them. We will discuss what makes a person 'significant' and learn about the importance of perseverance. The children will particularly focus on the changes we have seen in technology and society and how this has impacted our view of explorers. They will find out about sources of historical evidence and how it is easier to find out about explorations now, compared to those which took place in the past. They will also discover how societal views have enabled greater and fairer opportunities for exploring for people like Matthew Henson and Felicity Aston.</p>	<p>Our Geography topic this half term will be 'The Jungle' Children will engage in Jungle themed play. Exposing them to lots of different kinds of tropical animals. As always, language will be heavily modelled and supported with Makaton and visuals.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>Pupils will be using a program called 'Puppet Pals' to create animations about the famous explorers that we will be learning about in our History work.</p>	<p>We will be continuing to explore apps that help improve the children's Fine Motor and Communication skills.</p>

	We will continue to learn how to use computers safely and we will learn to use a keyboard and a simple word programme to create a simple document. We will continue to use iPads safely to interact with age-appropriate software.	
<b>PSHE (including RSE and Online Safety)</b>		All of Hilary House will be learning to manage their emotions using the Zone of Regulations.
<b>Art/DT</b>	This half term the children will be exploring paint in their Art lessons. The children will be experimenting with mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. The children will then use a range of colours whilst creating a variety of artwork and printing.	<p>We will continue to focus on colour and colour mixing.</p> <p>We will learn how to use various tools safely and appropriately.</p>
<b>PE</b>	Year 1 will spend this half term focusing on gymnastics and dance activities to increase their strength, flexibility, balance, agility, co-ordination and creativity.	We will base our PE lessons around improving our Gross Motor skills, turn taking and working as team.
<b>Music</b>	This half term we will be learning how to read rhythm notation, crotchets, quavers and semiquavers, and layering clapping rhythms to create polyrhythms.	We will have dedicated music session where we will learn how to play instruments correctly and use our devices to make requests. Additionally, we have singing sessions throughout the day.

Homework and reading book will be sent home on **Friday**. Please sure that these are returned the **following Friday**.

Please ensure your child comes into school in their PE kit on their designated PE day.

**PE days for Blue Class are Thursday and Friday.**

Kind regards,

Miss Coombs, Miss Kelly, Miss Flora, Miss Judith, Miss Svetlana, Miss Sophie and Miss Nikki.