Key Stage One Newsletter
Autumn 1 2024

Welcome back!

It has been so lovely to welcome all the children back to school and we have been very impressed with the way they have settled so quickly into the term.   The children should certainly feel very proud of themselves!

Our learning this half term

This half term is based on all things **geography**. We will start the half term with our annual map week, looking closely at our school grounds and using aerial photographs to identify different human ad physical features. We will then become cartographers - making maps of our classroom environment. We will then be looking at the UK more widely, looking at each country and the capital cities. The attached knowledge organiser will provide some of the key vocabulary and facts we will be learning – this could be a good opportunity for discussion with your child.

Our **English** texts for this half term are stories from around the UK. These include Dilwyn the Welsh Dragon, The Vanishing Lake (Northern Ireland) and Margaret's Unicorn (rural Scotland.) We will focus on using good sentence structure and accurate punctuation before writing a longer narrative piece towards the end of the half term based on the local legend of Robin Hood.

In **science** we will be looking at materials. This includes looking at the properties of different materials and thinking about why certain materials are chosen for certain purposes. We will then use our scientific skills in an investigation based on waterproof materials.

In our **R.E.** lessons we will look at the creation story, with the enquiry question 'Does God want Christians to look after the world?' We will also look at the Harvest Festival as a time to be thankful.

Our guided reading text for this half term is Avocado Baby:

Maths

In maths this half term we will be learning to:

- recognise the value of each digit in a 2-digit number up to 100
- partition 2-digit numbers into different combinations of tens and ones
- use number lines to estimate, locate and compare numbers
- add and subtract number bonds to 10 and 100
- count in 2s, 5s and 10s and recall our times tables more speedily.

Spelling and Maths Shed

Spelling homework will be set on Spelling Shed each week and a paper copy of the spellings to practise will also be sent home. Spellings will be tested during our phonics session on **Friday.** In addition, your child will receive weekly times table or number bond homework each week on MathShed.

Reading

Please make sure that you read with your child as often as possible, and **at least 4 times per week**. This really does make a difference in helping children to enjoy reading and helps to reinforce their phonics learning. **Online reading diaries will be checked weekly.** Children who read 4 times each week will receive House Points and a reward at the end of the half term. Your child will have a set day for changing their reading books each week.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to come and ask one of us!

Many thanks for your support!

Miss Hislop, Miss Gallacher, Miss Heaton and Miss Giles ☺

KS1 Map Makers

We are cartographers!

Compass rose: N, E, S, W

Map: SCOTLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, ENGLAND, WALES, IRELAND, LONDON, FRANCE — UNITED KINGDOM MAP

Key Vocabulary

Cartographer: a person who draws or produces maps

Compass: an instrument with a magnetic needle that shows direction on the Earth's surface by pointing towards the north.

Key: a list of symbols that appear on a map

Symbol: a mark or picture used to represent something

Aerial view: looking at something from above

Human features: something built by humans in the landscape

Physical features: something that occur naturally in the landscape

Route: a way taken from a starting point to reach a destination.

Positional language: where something or someone is in relation to other things e.g. beside, next to, over, under.
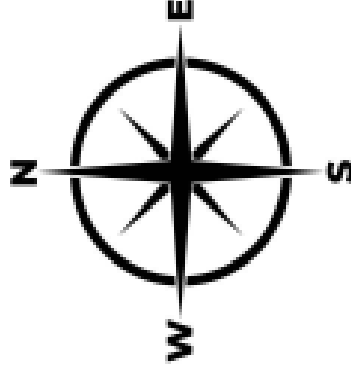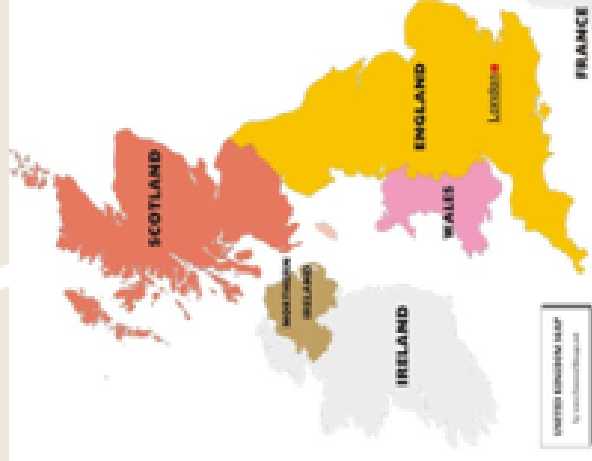
Sticky Knowledge

What features do maps have?
- Symbols
- Key
- Compass points

What human features might you see on a map?
houses, churches, schools, roads, railways, bridges

What are the 4 capital cities of the UK?
London (England)
Cardiff (Wales)
Edinburgh (Scotland)
Belfast (N. Ireland)

What physical features might you see on a map?
seas, rivers, mountains, hills, forests, beaches

Directional language:
North, East, South, West
Left, Right, Forwards, Backwards