

P1/2  
Newsletter  
May 2023

We have enjoyed our return to school and to settle in to our new classroom. We are getting to know our new space, indoors and out.

Our first focus for learning this term is on growing plants. The children have contributed great ideas to develop the garden space outside the class: we want to have flowers and trees to encourage insects to move in. This is something we will work on over time. We planted sunflower seeds and are watching their progress as they start to grow. Across the term we will plant more seeds for our garden and look at how different plants grow, from seeds, cuttings and tubers, including potatoes. We will link this to our learning in other areas of the curriculum:

In Science we will learn about Weather and Seasons and Space. This will link to Maths skills, in collecting data about the weather, and developing understanding of the pattern of day and night, identifying sun, moon and stars. We will relate these to the length of a day, a month and a year.

In Health and Wellbeing we will learn about life cycles of plants and animals and discuss how to care for them. We

will think about how babies and children grow and the nurture that families provide.

Later in the term, we will have a History focus and will find out about the past, learning about the lives of Vikings.

### Literacy

We will be focusing on talking skills this term. To encourage the children to share their experiences and learning, each child will have a turn during the week to share their news informally. Your child's day is:

.....

They may wish to bring something in to support them in talking, perhaps a drawing they have done at home or an interesting item found on a walk. We do not encourage children to bring toys to school. If they wish to talk about a toy, please email a photograph to [westbarns.ps@westbarns.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:westbarns.ps@westbarns.elcschool.org.uk)

Towards the end of term the themes for each week will come from our Interdisciplinary Learning. We will also be learning about poetry this term. I will be asking the children to learn a poem to recite at their Talking Time. I will send out a selection of poems for you to read together. However, if you have any favourite collections of children's poems we would be delighted to share them in school.

Week beginning	Theme for Talking Time
29/5/23	When I was little... Please bring (or email) a photo of when you were a baby
5/6/23	In the past... Please bring an item or a photo of something from the past that you know has changed.
12/6/23	Vikings (more information to come)
19/6/23	Poetry (more information to come)

### **Maths and Numeracy**

We are continuing our learning about fractions, making single units into equal pieces and introducing vocabulary such as half, third, quarter etc. We are also using this vocabulary in making equal shares: dividing groups of objects, e.g. half of 8 is 4. The children are working well on this in practical tasks. If you find yourself applying fraction knowledge at home (to cut a pizza or a cake) can you please discuss it with your child to help them to link their learning with real life situations.

### **Transition activities for new Primary 1's**

Over the next few weeks we will begin to welcome children to school who will be joining West Barns after the Summer. To help them prepare for this transition they will have the opportunity to play and work in our classroom alongside your children.

We have been delighted to welcome back Miss Gordon. She is a second year, Bachelor of Education student from Queen Margaret University. She will be working with us until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Some things to remember:

#### **Jackets in school**

The weather is thankfully, finally getting warmer. However, please make sure that your child continues to have a jacket with them at school in case the weather changes during the day.

#### **Water bottles**

As the weather warms up it becomes even more important for children to drink water. It is helpful for them to have their own bottle in the class which they can access easily.

Maggie Nicolson

P1/2 Class Teacher