



# Welcome to Conkers Class!

Autumn 1 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year from Mrs Bennett and Mr Mortimer!

We hope you have enjoyed a summer of different routines, trips out and maybe even a holiday. Our topic this half term is 'Inspiring Inventions' and we'll be having a big focus on history and designing our own vehicles. The children will participate in an exciting Launch of the topic next Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September as they visit The National Railway Museum in York where they'll be inspired by the marvels of modern engineering. Please remember to send your child with a packed lunch and water bottle for the trip on Monday. During history lessons we will help to develop the children's understanding of famous inventors such as Alexander Bell, Marie Curie and Thomas Edison. Mrs Bennett and Mr Mortimer are excited about all the fun and engaging activities that we have planned for the children, and are sure they'll enjoy them all too!

## Exciting Enhancement Grab Bags!

We are still developing this initiative that was started last Easter and are looking for ways to engage the children by trying to provide enhancements inside and outside Conkers that will inspire them and help them to move their learning forward. The following items will help to create exciting, easy to grab, bags of resources to interest them even more:

- Science goggles
- White coats/ apron
- Medical kit role play items e.g. bandages, stethoscopes etc.
- Paper plans of houses, vehicles or inventions (you may well know architects or graphic designers)
- Clipboards
- Shiny wellies / clothing for space



## Phonics and Reading Homework

Mrs Bennett has already written to Reception parents to explain how our school uses the synthetic phonics programme Little Wandle.

In addition to their phonics sessions, the children will be taught to read in small groups at least three times each week. They will also bring home a book to read to you. The book is matched to their phonic ability and will contain words which they can decode (sound out) with growing confidence and increasing fluency. Reading books will be changed weekly.

Please ensure that the school books are always stored in your child's bag so we can access them as needed. Children will have a home - school reading diary which you can fill in every time you read with your child. Staff will also let you know when they have read with them in this book.

### More Junk Modelling Resources

As you know, the children are always being creative and making things with recycled materials, so we are continuously needing to replenish the resources. Please send in any recycled items you may have at home for our craft area such as: small boxes, egg cartons, kitchen roll tubes, bottle tops (of any size) and buttons. Thank you very much in advance!

### PE on Mondays and Fridays

Conkers children will continue to have PE on a Monday afternoon. They will take part in dance led by Mrs Bennett on Mondays and ball skills led by Mr Mortimer on Fridays. Children should continue to come to school on a Monday and Friday wearing their PE kit, as this saves a lot of time having to get changed.

### Library Books

Every other Thursday afternoon, Pop up Library bring in a range of exciting books so that your child can choose one to take home to enjoy with you. Please remember to send them back into school a fortnight later, so they can swap it for a different book. **21<sup>st</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December**

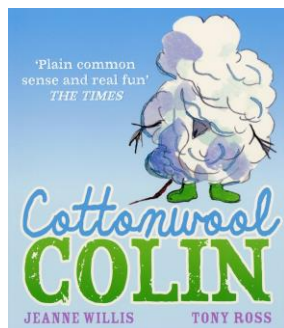
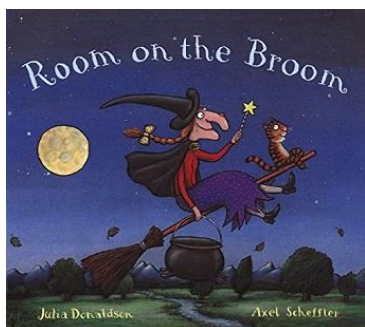
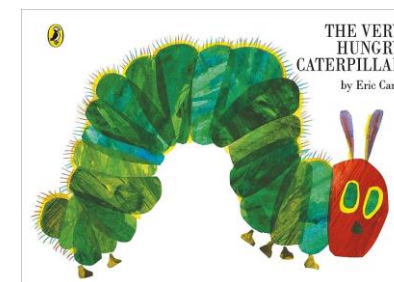
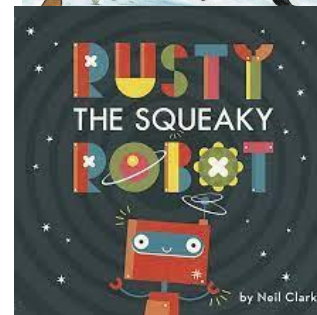
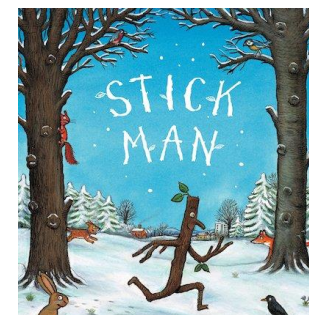
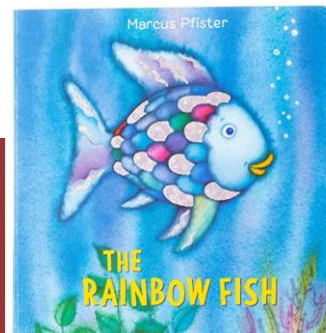
### Talk Through Stories

This half term, we will be continuing to focus on tier 2 words that children don't generally use in their day to day conversations. We will be reading a different book every week and playing little games focussing on various key words. These are the front covers of the books we're going to read this half term. If you have these at home, it would be great if you could send them in for us to discuss with your child.

### More Natural Resources

We are still collecting natural resources for the outdoor area including shells, pebbles, pine cones, planks and building blocks. We would also like small wooden blocks for our indoor construction area. If you have any of these spare, we would really appreciate them.

Thank you!



## What Are We Learning About?

So far we have enjoyed 'getting to know you' activities including; making paper chains of our names and interests, creating paper plate collage self-portraits, writing on petals, expressing our feelings to create a flower and reciting funny rhymes together.

In English, your child will be writing a recount of our trip to the National Railway Museum. Following this, we will explore story writing using the hilarious 'Aliens love Underpants' books. We then move on to poetry linked to space

In maths, Reception children will focus on recognising and ordering numbers to 10 and beyond. They will use numbers to add and subtract objects and find totals too. Year 1 and 2 children use place value to enhance their understanding of addition and subtraction when solving problems linked to our themes. Finally, all year groups will spend time learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

In Science, your child will be exploring animals including humans. They will learn the names of wild and domestic animals, grouping them into fish, birds, mammals, lizards or amphibians. Year 1 and 2 children will explore life cycles and how these differ for animals that lay eggs to those who have live young. Children will label the moving parts of various animals, naming and describing the sense organs. We look forward to a couple of visits into school; one from a Malton Hospital's community midwife. She will help children to understand how much care babies and mums need in comparison to animals in the wild. And yes, it's Mrs Mortimer! The other from Mrs Raines' baby bunnies -maybe even all 7 of them!

In History, your child will be discovering why the inventions of Alexander Bell, Marie Curie and George Stephenson are significant. They will be comparing life before and after the industrial revolution and talking about their own ideas for inventions.

In PE, Mrs Bennett will be teaching dance on Monday afternoons. Mr Mortimer will be teaching ball skills on Friday afternoons.

In Art and Design, your child will be comparing the mighty machines from The Railway Museum. We will explore the steps of effective design and will try to create our own inspiring invention using a variety of materials.

In Computers children will learn about a range of devices and technology and how we can use them to benefit us. They will explore ipads, to select options from a screen and follow instructions to manipulate pictures and text.

In Music, Mrs Stockill will be helping Reception children to find their singing voice using sing/response songs. Year 1 and 2 children will explore inventions using the orchestra to create music. We will also enjoy learning and singing harvest songs too.

Mrs Stockill will be teaching children to sing hello and goodbye, colours and days of the week in French.



## What Are We Learning About?

In Understanding the World and Religious Education, your child will be learning about 'Special Stories.' They will relate their own understanding of special books and explore stories from the Christian Bible, Muslim Quran and Jewish Torah.

### PHSE for Reception

Our topic this half term is 'Being in my World' and we will be exploring the following concepts:

- Self-identity
- Understanding feelings
- Being in a classroom
- Being gentle
- Rights and responsibilities

### PHSE for Year 1 and 2

Our topic this half term is 'Being in my World' and we will be exploring the following concepts:

- Feeling special and safe
- Being part of a class
- Rights and responsibilities that we have
- Rewards and feeling proud
- Consequences and how we can be responsible for our actions

### Picture News

Each week we will learn about our British Values through current affairs in our world. We will explore Tolerance of other faiths and beliefs, Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and will understand characteristics of being a good and fair citizen.