

YR 1 NEWSLETTER



STARBECK
PRIMARY ACADEMY

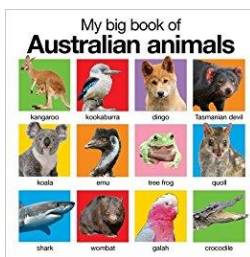
Happy New year to you all and welcome back after the Christmas break, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas after a very busy and long Autumn term. We would like to say a very big thank you for all the lovely cards and presents we received. They were very much appreciated.

Our Topics this term

This term our topic is 'Down Under'...all about Australia. We will be having a Geography and Science focus, where the children will be comparing where we live with Australia, finding out about lots of interesting things like what the weather is like, what the landscape is like and the first people to live in



and explore Australia. Science will be all about animals especially those found in Australia. In History we will learn about Captain James Cook and his voyage to Australia.



In Mathematics we will be focusing upon number-bonds to 10 (and then 20) and addition and subtraction. We will work on our Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS). This term we are learning by heart our doubles and halves of numbers to 10 and number bonds to 10 and number bonds for each number to 10.

In English we are going to begin by asking questions, reading, and writing non-fiction information. The children will be finding out about different aspects of Australia through books, videos, and ICT. They will be writing different types of non-fiction texts and developing comprehension skills during reading sessions.

Our Computing unit of work is called 'Maze Explorers' and is an introduction to coding where the children will learn to follow and create a simple algorithm. We will then be introduced to Spreadsheets. In RE we are learning about sacred places and in PHSE we will consider how we can become active citizens and how we can keep ourselves safe.

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Our PE focus is gymnastics and yoga for the first half term and then sending and receiving skills and fitness after the half term holiday. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school all half term.

In Art the children will be learning about the techniques and meanings of Australian Aboriginal art and will be learning about colour and contrast.

Home learning

It is very important that your child reads regularly at home and continue to have stories read aloud to them, as this helps children develop their imagination and introduces them to vocabulary, they may not otherwise experience. Recent research into the impact of parents reading with their children found that by the age of 5, children who had never been read to have a vocabulary of 4,662 words; those who were read to 1-2 times per week knew 63,570 words; 3-5 times per week, 169,520 words; daily, 296,660 words; and five books a day, 1,483,300 words.

Reading books will continue to be sent home weekly. The children will have read this book three times in school with an adult, so should be quite confident when reading aloud to you. The children who read regularly at home are now starting to read a lot of words on sight, which speeds up the process.

Helping your child to learn or practise their KIRFS at home will encourage them to become fluent in number facts and multiplication tables. Knowing these facts will support your child's learning in all areas of maths. Your child will have a piece of English/Phonics or Maths homework to complete each week, often set on Purple Mash or in their home learning book. As the Year 1 phonics screening test approaches there will also be some phonics revision activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs Kitwood and Miss Ickringill