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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
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DL17 8QY



Year 2 Autumn 1 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you managed to have a fantastic summer holiday. Our topic for this term is 'Amazing Animals' which will give the children the opportunity to explore a variety of different animals, how they behave and where they live.

What are we going to be doing this half term?

English - Linked with our animal topic and Science lessons, children will be creating their own non-fiction leaflets all about different animals we find. We will use iPads to help us find interesting information and then create some fact files too. We will be reading a variety of stories with familiar settings which contain animals such as 'The tiger who came to tea' and 'The tiger who lost his stripes'. Then we will write our own version of these stories. There will be a big emphasis on spelling this year and this will build on the children's knowledge of phonics from Year 1.

Maths - We will be covering a wide range of skills in maths and these will change regularly. Our focus this half term will include: estimating and counting objects up to 100; understanding place value in larger numbers; exploring mental methods for both addition and subtraction; improving our understanding of money and also plenty of problem solving and reasoning. Later in the term, children will gain access to Times Table Rockstars. A separate note will be sent about this where children will receive their own personal log in to access the website from home.

RE - Questions for us to explore this half term include: 'Why is the Bible special to Christians?' and 'What can we learn from the story of St. Cuthbert?'

PHSCE - Across the school, the SEAL programme is used and the theme for this half term will be 'New Beginnings'. Children will have the opportunity to discuss how this makes them feel and decisions they can make to help them deal with change.

Art - After exploring the designs of different animals, children will get the opportunity to sculpt their own using a variety of materials. We will incorporate different techniques to help reach a finalised product.





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Science - Due to our topic being based on animals, lots of science skills will be covered this term. Children will classify animals into different groups and also explore their offspring and how animals develop over time. The needs of animals will also be considered and the different habitats where they live. We will also be thinking about the habitats we can find in our own school grounds and go on our very own habitat hunt which I am sure will be very exciting.



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Computing - As children are using computers more often, we will discuss the importance of staying safe online and choices we can make to help. Children will have a basic understanding of what an algorithm is and how this can control a device when used correctly. We will also be using the laptops and learn how to use Microsoft Word more confidently.

Geography - Linking to animals and where they come from, we will look at the different countries, oceans and continents on the Earth. Children will be able to locate these on a variety of different maps and also explore using an atlas confidently. We will also compare different climates in the world and why animals adapt to these differently.

PE - Our PE sessions are on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon. Please make sure that the children have their kits in school with them on Monday for the duration of the week. The children require a t-shirt, shorts and trainers. To avoid any accidents, please remove earrings on PE days. Our topics in PE this half term include 'Ten Point Hoops' - a games unit where children work on their throwing accuracy and defending skills and also a Gymnastics themed unit where children will build on the skills they learnt last year.

Homework is given out on Friday and should be returned on Tuesday - this allows the children to ask if they are unsure about their task on Monday. Children will be given some Maths and English. Occasionally, they may be set some topic work too which will improve their understanding of content covered in school. May I also highlight the importance of regular reading at home and I appreciate your support in signing the children's diaries regularly. We should be aiming to read as often as possible. Children need to ensure that their reading books and diaries are in school every day.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to contact me at school and I would be happy to give you further information.

Yours sincerely

J. Blood

Mr. Joshua Blood
Year 2 Class Teacher

