



Street Detectives

Spring 1 2023



Welcome back Squirrels and happy New Year.

Firstly we would like to take this opportunity say a great big thank you for all of the beautiful gifts that we received at the end of term. They were all very much appreciated and needed.

This way or that way? Where should we go? Up to the local shops or down to the playing fields?

This half term our topic is, 'Street Detectives' we will explore and learn about our local community. We will look at houses old and new and find out how our streets have changed. Perhaps your granny or grandpa went to Boxgrove School or maybe they worked in the shop? We will make maps and plans of the streets around us, as we plan our routes.

To **engage** the children in the topic, we will look a variety of maps of the local area to see what we can locate. We will also explore our community as we undertake some fieldwork and discover the different buildings we can find.

Through the '**develop stage**' of the topic the children will:

- learn about the local area the correct vocabulary for its features
- Design and make a house, but not with bricks.
- What are houses made of? Identify wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- Use fieldwork & observational skills to study the surrounding environment and observe what the local area is like.
- Describe the physical properties of a variety of everyday materials
- Explore a range of maps and identify the symbols that are used.
- Use key vocabulary when describing the local area
- Use compass directions - north, south, east and west when giving directions.
- Look at how the local area has changed and developed over the years.
- Explore art work of Romare Bearden and create their own 'Cityscape'.

This term the reception children will carry on with the RWI programme. Their progress last term was very impressive, so thank you for supporting your child with this at home. It is vital to each child's progress that they are supported at home with their reading and writing. The reception children will learn alongside year 1 and we will be street detectives and they will also follow the Early Years Curriculum.

The **Innovate** challenge will take place during the week beginning 30th January. The children will design and make a house for travelling Ted. He has been travelling all his life, and does

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not have a home to live in. After meeting the children of Squirrel Class he will decide that he would love to live in a house in Boxgrove.

Our Author this term is John Burningham. We will start with his book *House Mouse*. If you have any of his books at home and your child would like to share it with us in school that would be great. Please just make sure it has their name on it to make sure it gets back to them.

The homework task

Firstly, some of you have already done this. I have asked the children to take a photograph of the outside of their house and email it in to me asap. This will go on display in the classroom and I think it is a fun and relevant way for the children to see how houses are different.

For this homework I would like you to draw and label your own fantasy home. What will your home be built from? How will you get in and out of your house? What will you have in your garden? You could also make a model of your fantasy house using junk materials. I cannot wait to see how all your different designs will look like.

Reading

Year R - throughout the week - 1:1

Reading books will be changed on a Monday and Friday afternoon for all.

P.E. day R/Y1/2: Thursday and Friday

Please note this is subject to change when other events take place, therefore P.E kits need to stay in school.

Thank you so much for your continued support with your children and their learning. A positive home school link always benefits your child/ren. As a result of this the children in Squirrel class have made great progress. I also want to thank you for the support you gave the children with their previous homework - it was great to see the variety of responses to the task.

Mrs Sonia Whittle

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