

Badshot Lea Village Infant School

International Curriculum News 2009



Christmas Around the World

This week the children will be learning about 'Christmas Around the World'. Each class will be learning about a different country: Sky → Germany; Mars → Australia; Sun → Mexico; Star → Russia; and Rainbow → Sweden. Children in Mars Class, Sun Class and Star Class will be learning about their countries in preparation for their Christmas Performance of Baboushka.

Lots of exciting activities have been planned for all the children including: art and craft; cooking; dance and music; story telling; spoken language; and learning about the Christmas traditions of each country. On Friday the children will be able to share what they have learnt with each other at a special assembly. There is a delightful 'Christmas Around the World' display outside the school office for everyone to see.



International School Status

During this academic year we will be working towards our International School Status. We have already gained the intermediate level and are now working hard towards the full award. Our Action Plan includes the following curriculum themes:

International Partnership global link with a school in Nepal	All year
Christmas Around the World	December 2009
Chinese New Year: Wow Day	February 2010
Religious Education: we are part of the wider global community	Spring Term 2010
Habitats and endangered species around the World including a Wow Day with the 'Bug Man'	March 2010
Religious Education: to develop positive responses to others, and apply them	Summer Term 2010
Art Around the World including an Art Exhibition	June 2010
International Games and World Cup including Sports Day	June / July 2010
Music in the global dimension	Throughout the year
Teacher reciprocal visits to Nepal	During the year

Maths Curriculum News - December 2009



We hope that you are enjoying sharing Number Bag activities with children in years 1 and 2 and that parents of children in year R are beginning to use some of the ideas from the Numeracy Workshop held earlier this term.

Throughout the school we are concentrating on helping the children to understand all about subtraction. For this year our focus is on using and understanding the vocabulary involved in subtraction and being able to apply the methods and language to problem solving activities. Ideas to use at home during the Christmas holiday can be found below in *italics*. It is important to practice 'little and often' using numbers that are familiar to your child in the first instance. Being successful and taking small steps is the best policy.

For this term our whole school targets are:

Reception

Begin to use the vocabulary involved in subtraction in practical activities: one less; take-away; fewer.

- *Put out a small number of toys. Ask your child to count the toys. Ask your child what would be one less than that number. You can use any number up to 5 and then up to 10.*
- *Thinking about Christmas - count the number of crackers on the table. Ask your child to take one away and say how many are left. You could do this with all sorts of Christmas items!*
- *Put out two small sets (groups) of lego bricks. Ask your child to count each set and then tell you which has fewer lego bricks. You could follow that up with 'how many fewer lego bricks?' Always start with small numbers so your child has success.*

Year One

To understand the operation of subtraction and use the related vocabulary: take-away; subtract; minus; less; fewer; equals; take-away sign; equals sign.

- *Use similar activities to those above but with larger numbers.*
- *Write 'take away' on a small piece of paper with the - sign next to it. Write 'equals' on another small piece of paper with the = sign next to it. Use these as word and sign recognition cards. Practice for five minutes each day until your child knows them off by heart.*
- *Write the other 'subtraction' words (one each on a small piece of paper) and practice recognising the words until your child is secure in reading every one.*

Year Two

To understand the operation of subtraction as finding the difference.

- *Using numbers to 10 ask your child to find the difference between two numbers. Then move on to numbers up to 20 and beyond.*
- *Try some problem solving activities. Tom has 7 books and Kate has 10 books. Find the difference. Or, find the difference between 12 sweets and 7 sweets.*
- *Ask your child to find the difference between two sets (groups) of toys, or lego bricks.*

Finally, if you have received this letter by Parent Mail and your child is in years one or two, please look in your child's book bag for a leaflet all about mathematics. Thank you.