



9th September, 2016

Year 1 topic introduction – The circus is coming to town

Dear Parents,

Over the next six weeks those of us in Year 1 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on 'Movement and entertainment'.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child's own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

During this unit we will be focusing on Art, History, Science, Technology, Geography, and International.

As Artists, we'll be finding out:

- How to draw faces and understand expressions
- About the work of artists who have painted pictures about the circus

As Historians, we'll be finding out:

- What circuses were like in the past
- About some of the people who made circuses famous
- How circuses have changed over the years

As Scientists, we'll be finding out:

- Which materials would make a waterproof tent
- Which materials to use for circus costumes
- About forces – pushes and pulls in circus acts



As Technologists, we'll be finding out:

- How to put up a tent
- How to plan and make circus tents for soft toys

As Geographers, we'll be finding out:

- How to draw maps and plans of a circus
- How to use maps and atlases to find out about the countries some circus animals come from

As Internationally minded citizens, we'll be finding out:

- What different people think about using animals in the circus
- What the circus of the future might look like

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

Your child might ask you general questions about circuses today and in the past and for circus dressing-up clothes for role play in class.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child will have achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 Team