# **Learning Letter – Darwin Class**

## **Preparing for Adulthood: Independent Living**

#### Skills for Life

This term we are learning about technology in their setting, at home and in the community.

Students will develop their understanding of the concept of 'technology' and how we use technology in a range of places.

All students will learn safety rules and processes when using a range of technological equipment and practice carrying out these activities safely.

Some students will be developing their understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of particular pieces of technology and learning what to do when technology goes wrong!

#### **Food Technology**

All students will have weekly practical cooking sessions this term. Within these lessons, students will be following recipes, measuring ingredients and using a range of kitchen equipment to create both savoury and sweet dishes and snacks.

This term we will be cooking a range of simple snacks and meals to develop confidence and independence in the kitchen. This includes: porridge, pinwheels, flapjacks, omelettes, cakes and eggs on toast.

Students will also have theory lessons to learn about food safety and hygiene, planning nutritious meals and shopping for ingredients.

#### Ways you can help your child:

- Explore your own home and local area. What technology do you use every day?
- Ask students to explain the safety rules of technology when using these at home.
- Encourage students to cook at home. This could be making their own drinks and snacks or supporting cooking larger meals.
- Talk about the different equipment and ingredients used in the kitchen what are they for? Why do we use them or eat them?

# **Preparing for Adulthood: Health**

## **Physical Education**

In PE this term, students will be developing our football skills and taking part in fitness session.

These sports will support students to improve their accuracy when using balls, following rules within sports and working with their team to complete an objective.

Students will be learning important skills such as turn-taking, supporting others in their team and keeping score.

Some students will also develop leadership skills through leading activities in PE lessons and taking part in refereeing during whole class football matches.

Students will also have opportunities to learn about the effects of exercise of their bodies and how to maintain healthy lifestyles.

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

This term in Duke of Edinburgh lessons, we are working towards the physical and skills section of the award. Students have chosen to take part in weekly walking or badminton sessions in their physical sessions. Students have chosen to take part in bicycle maintenance, furniture restoration, saltdough Christmas decorations for their skills or jewellery making for their skills section.

## Ways you can help your child:

- Discuss rules in different sports such as football or cricket if watching at home.
- Encourage students to explore different ways to keep fit and healthy outside of school

# **Preparing for Adulthood: Employment**

## **English**

This term we are reading The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-time by Mark Haddon.

While reading, we will complete a range of activities and tasks to improve our comprehension and understanding of topics words.

Students will also complete different writing tasks based on the book and practice newspaper reports.

To develop our functional reading and writing, students will also be practicing reading and writing for different purposes including reading in the community and sharing personal information to access job opportunities and services in the future.

Some students will also learn about different aspects and themes of the book including loss, difference, relationships and journey to independence.

#### Maths

Our topic this term in Maths is place value and shape.

This includes working with numbers up to either 20,100 or 1000. We will practice recognising numbers, ordering and comparing.

Some students will also be practicing rounding, using decimal numbers and working with negative numbers.

After half term, we will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes, moving onto position, direction and movement.

We will learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes including lines of symmetry, angles and how to draw a range of shapes.

We will also be learning about direction and position. Some students will practice plotting co-ordinates on a grid.

### Computing

In Computing, our key focusses this term will be Online safety and the podcasting. We will be learning about how to keep ourselves safe when using the internet when communicating with known and unknown people. We will also be developing skills using emails including purple mash, our school communication system. Some students will be using Microsoft emails and learn how to respond to spam.

After half term, we are learning about podcasting. We will develop our understanding of our reputation online, including why it is important to maintain our online reputation and what we can do or try not to do to maintain our online reputations through our behaviours, words and actions.

#### World of work

Our world of work topic this term is exploring jobs and learning how to present personal information.

As part of this topic, we will also be learning about a range of careers and jobs. We will learn about careers that are of interest to us all and jobs that we have the skills and qualities for.

Throughout this topic, we will identify some skills and qualities of our own and suitable jobs to match the skills, qualities and interests we have.

At the end of this topic, all students will have a CV or completed document to share personal information with potential employees and other educational settings in the future. Some students will also take part in work experience placements throughout the term.

## Ways you can help your child:

- Encourage students to read books of their choice at home to promote a pleasure for reading. When reading, engage in discussions about what you have read such as what has happened already? What is your favourite part and why? What might happen next? Can you describe a character in the book in your own words? Support children to use language to describe directions, position and movement.
- Identify 2D and 3D shapes around the home and in your local area. Can students describe their properties?
- Have conversations about staying safe online and how important it is to be careful what we are sharing with the wider world when using the internet.
- Discuss different careers or jobs that interest your child. Talk about skills and qualities you and your child have. What jobs might these be suited for?

# **Preparing for Adulthood: Community Inclusion**

## **Religious Education and Cultural Development**

In our Cultural Development lessons this term we are learning about Literature, music, film from Black cultures. We will learn about key events in famous people such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and identify some similarities and differences in our lives and theirs.

As part of this topic, we will create pieces of art or craft where influences of black culture can be seen and share with others how we have included these influences in our work.

#### **PSHE**

Our topics this term for PSHE is forming and maintaining respectful relationships. We will be focussing on learning about and exploring intimacy in relationships. This will include exploring different degrees of emotional and physical intimacy and different types of romantic relationships.

Students will gain a better understanding about the difference between a romantic or intimate relationship and friendships. We will also learn about how to recognise when someone is ready for a relationships, which may include a level of intimacy.

#### **Enrichment and enterprise**

This term, all students are taking part in an enterprise project this term. We are making Christmas cards and gift tags and a small group will be leading their own enterprise project using a Cricut machine.

We will also be completing an enrichment project this term. This will be planning with the class, to ensure they can include their own ideas and inspirations into the piece of work.

We will be creating a whole school display for Granta and will be focussing on incorporating a range of textiles and fabrics to make a tactile, sensory pieces of artwork.

## **Community Visits**

This term, our community visits will be focussing on exploring technology in our community. We will visit the local area to find different pieces of technology and discuss how to use these safely.

We will also have opportunities to continue to develop other skills through visits to the local shops and physical sessions on the Abington recreation ground.

# **Travel Training**

We will be starting travel training sessions for all students this term and this will continue throughout the year. Students will have opportunities to use the public bus to visit other villages and towns and use the facilities and shops before returning to the Hive. These sessions with be supported by adults, while encouraging independence, time management and problem solving for students.

## Ways you can help your child:

- Try to explore cultures outside of your own family at home and engage with celebrations in October for Black History Month.
- Encourage and engage in artistic expressions of culture or celebrations.
- Discuss different types of relationships within your own lives including different friends and types of families.
- Look out for different pieces of technology in the community. Discuss what it might be used for.
- When using any public transport, encourage students to support with planning including routes and timings.