

Widening Horizons, Raising Aspirations

03 November 2023

Year 2, 3 and 4 Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back after a well-earned week off and are looking forward to another busy term, full of exciting activities for the children as we approach Christmas!

Next week, we have Parent Consultations so make sure you have booked an appointment. At these, parents and carers often ask what they can do to support their child with their learning; here are our Top 5:

- *Listen to your child read (or read to them) every day if you can or at least 3 times a week*
- *Help them to practise their number bonds in the Infants or their times tables in the Juniors*
- *Help them practise their spellings*
- *Make sure they come to school every day that they are well*
- *Talk to your child about their day at school - make sure your 'phone is in your pocket at drop-off and pick-up times!*

Year 2

In **English**, our primary text for the term will be "Pattan's Pumpkin" by Chitra Soundar. From this text the children will explore more ambitious language, write their own setting description and also use the story to create a news report on the flood. Our other text is 'Leaf' by Sandra Diekman; the children will create fact files on polar bears and write a letter to the other animals as if they were Leaf.

Our **maths** focus for this term will centre on addition and subtraction before moving on to exploring different 2D and 3D shapes. Applying what they have learnt about place value, the children will learn to add and subtract 1-digit and 2-digit numbers; find 10 more and 10 less than a 2-digit number; solve missing number problems; name and identify 2D and 3D as well as describing the properties of these.

In **science**, we will be continuing with the 'animals including humans' topic. We will now be moving on to look at different life cycles, looking at our own life cycle and comparing this to other living things. Our focus will be identifying, classifying and grouping.

This term we will begin our first **geography** topic which will explore whether we would like to live in a hot or cold place and the typical characteristics of some of these countries. We will carry out a case study comparing our life in the UK to Kenya.

Our **art** topic this term will focus on clay and different sculpting techniques, leading to a final product of a clay tile.

PE will continue to be on Wednesday and Friday and we will continue to ensure that we have daily physical activity.

As we approach Christmas, we will be rehearsing for our Infant performance of the Nativity that will be showcased at the end of the term.

Please, can we remind you that children **MUST** bring Reading Records and **reading books** in to school daily as this supports them with reading and spelling practice in school. The expectation is now that children read to an adult at home **at least 3 times per week** and the diary is signed. This will then contribute to the classes weekly reading percentage which in turn will lead to each class earning a whole class reward.

Picasso Class

In **English**, our writing will focus around Anthony Browne books, 'Gorilla' and 'Into the Forest'. Through these books, the children will be creating letters and descriptive pieces and looking at character analysis.

In **maths** this term, we will be focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children will be able to use 2 and 3 digit numbers in a range of different calculations and real life questions.

Science this term is continuing with the topic 'Animals including Humans'. In this unit, the children will be learning about how animals and humans have different diets and need different amounts of different foods to survive. We will also be learning about how humans and animals have different skeletal structures and why these are important for movement and protecting the body.

This term in **geography**, the children will be learning about settlements, how people live in a range of different places and how this has an impact on the style of living and culture.

We are beginning our **D.T** unit, where we are learning to sew cross-stitch and applique onto felt. We will then be designing and making our own cushions using these skills.

PE this term will be on Monday and Wednesday for Picasso class. Children will need to come to school wearing their PE kit on these days. We will be learning skills for football and netball.

For children that were in Rosen class last year, they will continue going swimming on Monday. This will continue until the end of next term. Please can children come to school with their swimming kit in a named bag.

As we approach the end of term, there will be the normal Christmas excitement, which will include rehearsing for our year 3 and 4 performance of our carols in the courtyard.

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Kusama Class

Kusama class are excited to be completing their learning on British History this term, concluding with a Living History Stone Age workshop on Friday 24th November. By the end of this unit, children will be asked to answer the question, '*Would you prefer to live in the Stone Age, the Iron Age or the Bronze Age?*' We look forward to hearing their responses!

Our **English** this term centres around the core text of 'Mouse, Bird Snake, Wolf'; a 2013 graphic novel written by David Almond and illustrated by David McKean. This powerful and thought-provoking text enables children to explore the beauty of nature as well as the importance of boundaries and self-restraint. We will also be reading The Velveteen Rabbit, by Margery Williams, which chronicles a stuffed rabbit's desire to become real through the love of his owner.

In **maths** this term, we will be practising and consolidating our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. Please remember the importance of frequent rehearsal of times tables - little and often is key. Our **science** focus is sound; specifically, how sounds are made and detected. We will also learn about volume and pitch. In computing, we will be continuing to learn about coding, with a focus on creating our own programs. In **RE**, we begin our learning on what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today, while the theme for **RSHE** is 'Celebrating Differences'. We will also explore proportion, tone and shading when drawing, as part of our **art** lessons this term. **PE** this term is football on Mondays and netball on Wednesdays - please remember PE kit (to include trainers) and no earrings on these days. Thank you.

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As we approach Christmas, all Year 3 and 4 children will be rehearsing to perform our annual carols in the courtyard.

Morris Class

Welcome back to all the children in Morris class for another exciting term!

For **English** this term, the book we are using for our writing will be 'The Iron Giant'. Through this text, we will be exploring character description, writing a formal letter, create our poetry and write a motivational speech.

In **maths** this term, we will begin understanding the area of different 2D shapes, before moving on to written and mental methods for multiplication and division, whilst applying prior knowledge of what they have learnt so far in maths this year to support them.

In **science** this term, we will be starting our new topic of Sound. In this topic, we will be understanding how the ear works, understanding pitch, volume and understand how distance affects sound.

This term, we will also be starting our first **geography** unit 'Who lives in Antarctica?' In this unit, children will learn about longitude and latitude to describe physical locations and features of Antarctica. We will be learning how to use grid references and plan routes just like explorers of Antarctica.

For **art** this term, we will be looking at power prints, beginning with different drawing tones to create 3D effects. In our **RSHE** unit this term, 'Celebrating Difference', we learn about how to accept others and their differences, discuss influences, both positive and negative and discuss bullying. We will also be learning about the Hindu faith in **RE** and answer the question 'What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?'

PE this term will continue to be on Thursday and Friday for Morris class and they will be taking part in netball and football. Children will need to come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

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Yours sincerely

Middle Years Team