



Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, everybody! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and some much-needed rest. We have a fantastic term ahead and are delighted to be joined by Mrs Payne who will be completing her teacher training with us.

Class novels: The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rouf and The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis.

English: In English, we will continue to use texts that relate to the wider curriculum. Our first text will be 'Kai and the Monkey King' by Joe Todd-Stanton. This exciting and beautifully illustrated text will link with our history topic on Ancient Civilizations and will be used to write a non fiction text. We will then move on to read 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. We will delve deep into its imaginative storyline and use it to write our own adventure tales.

Maths:

- **Year 3** will develop their confidence and skills in multiplication and division by learning how to multiply by 10 and use formal written methods to multiply and divide two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. After that, they will move on to: calculating length and perimeters; fractions (including organising fractions on a number line and finding fractions of amounts); and mass and capacity.

- **Year 4** will consolidate their skills in multiplication and division by learning how to multiply by 10, 100 and 1000 and by using formal written methods to multiply and divide three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. After that, Year 4 will move on to: calculating length and perimeters; fractions (including organising fractions on a number line and finding fractions of amounts); and decimals (including converting decimals into fractions and ordering them on number lines).

Science: In science, the class will be learning about sound. They will conduct research and plan enquiries that develop their understanding of what sound is, how it travels, how we hear it and how it can be changed. After that, we will be learning about 'living things'. We will understand how living things are classified, what similarities and differences they have and how they are uniquely adapted to survive.

PE: This term, the children will go swimming on a Monday afternoon. They will be taught how to swim confidently in front crawl, back crawl and breaststroke. In addition, the children will continue to develop their gameplay skills by understanding how to attack and defend in a range of situations.

RE: In RE, the children will develop their understanding of Hinduism by learning the story of Rama and Sita and the origins and practices of the festival of Diwali. After February half term, the children will learn about Jesus' contributions to Christianity and how his sacrifice affects Christians today.

PSHE: In PSHE, we will continue to improve our knowledge of meaningful and purposeful relationships (including those with friends and family); how to stay safe and happy whilst online; and how to keep our bodies healthy.

History: In history, we are going to travel back in time to visit the first civilizations. We will study ancient civilizations from across the world to understand how they started, developed and became so successful. Furthermore, we will use our growing knowledge to compare which ones were the most successful and why.

Geography: In geography, we will be deepening our understanding of the human and physical features of geography and where they are found. We will focus on the location of countries in North and South America, as well as in Europe.

French: In French, the children will learn and adapt a story in French using their dictionary skills. They will also learn to describe their appearance and how they are feeling.

Art: In art, the children will be learning about sculpture. They will explore artists famous for designing and producing sculptures and then produce some of their own using a variety of materials.

Design Technology: In DT, we are going to look at existing 3D structures, design our own pavilion and then build it. To do this, we will evaluate materials, create cardboard weaves, understand how to reinforce a structure and think about how to join materials. This topic will be linked heavily with art.

Computing: In computing, we will develop our understanding of programming by creating a working keyboard on Scratch. We will understand and demonstrate how to manipulate Sprites so that they look and sound like a typical keyboard.

Music: In our music lessons, we are going to draw inspiration from the colour and beauty of Japan's Cherry Blossom trees to write and perform a musical Haiku.

PE kit

PE will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons. Monday afternoon lessons will be swimming at Hornby pool. The children will need their swimming kit in school every Monday (including a towel). Children must wear a swimming cap if their hair is shoulder length or longer and/or they have a fringe that is level with their eyes. Friday afternoon lessons will be taught by Mrs Cain. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times.

Outdoor learning

We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

Snacks

Children can buy toast to eat at breaktime. Please send your child in at the beginning of the week with enough money for the amount of toast they would like. Each slice costs **20p**. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

Homework

Homework will continue to focus on our key skills in maths and English. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

- **Daily reading** - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. Please remember that re-reading books enables children to develop fluency and confidence and therefore it may be suggested that they read a text again. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of **twenty minutes each day**. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

- **Weekly spellings** - Spellings will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. Spellings for the whole term are available on the class page of the website. Please support your child in learning their five weekly spellings.

- **Times tables** - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 **by May**, ready for the statutory multiplication check. This means being able to recite times tables. and knowing related division facts 5 times 6 is 30, 30 divided by 5 is 6. We ask that children practise the times table for **ten minutes each day**. Times tables will be tested in school each Friday.

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email, telephone or in person at the end of the school day.

Best wishes,



Mrs Cain