



17th April 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a relaxing Easter break.

As usual, we have lots of exciting learning planned for the term.

Our big questions this term are 'How and why has medicine improved over time?' and 'What is the impact of a warming world?'

Class novel: Kay's Marvellous Medicine by Adam Kay

English:

We will be using Malorie Blackman's '*Pig-Heart Boy*' as the focus for our English unit this term. Linking to our history unit of 'Medicine over time', we will use this text to explore debate, newspaper reports, and dilemma stories. We will continue to focus on formality of writing, accurate speech punctuation blended with action and description, and using a variety of sentence types and starters. In reading, we will continue to develop our written answers, particularly focusing on inference, retrieval and vocabulary. We will embed reading skills and SPaG knowledge into our units. We will practise spellings daily and handwriting several times each week.

Maths: To start the term, we will focus on statistics, shape, and position and direction. We will continue to develop our arithmetic and fluency skills through daily arithmetic and develop our reasoning and problem-solving throughout the units. We will then consolidate our understanding of the four operations and fractions before the year 6 SATs.

Science: In science, our unit focuses on 'Living things', with a specific emphasis on plants and micro-organisms. Throughout this unit, we will learn to identify similarities and differences between living things and present these observations in a variety of ways including venn diagrams and classification keys.

PE: This term, we will develop skills in cricket and netball. PE will take place on Thursday afternoons.

RE: We will start by exploring Christianity through the question - 'What is meant by a miracle?'. This will allow us to develop our understanding of Jesus. We will explore the miracles that Jesus performed and try to define what a miracle is to us individually. We will also explore the concept of pilgrimage, focusing on the Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and try to understand why this is an important event for some Christians. Following this, we will focus on Judaism, where we will explore beliefs using the question, 'Do people need laws to guide them?' to guide our learning.

Geography: This term in Geography, we will be learning about Biomes. We will learn about the 6 biomes on Earth and their features, building upon our understanding of climate zones and lines of latitude and longitude from our previous units. We will then link this learning to climate change and how the biomes and their biotic

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features are being and will be affected by changes in climate e.g. increased temperatures, rising water levels. Following this, we will explore the different ways that we may be able to help to tackle climate change now and in the future.

History: This term, we will be learning about 'Medicine through time'. Exploring this theme throughout history, we will follow a chronological approach, starting with Ancient Egypt and ending with modern day medical techniques and discoveries. This unit will help to build upon our understanding of the theme of Technology, which runs throughout history, and we will focus on the historical concept of cause and consequence to help us explore this theme. Within this unit, we will explore 3 main concepts central to medicine: public health; disease and infection; and surgery and anatomy. We will explore the beliefs and lifestyles, including religion, of each civilisation in order to help us understand their approaches to medicine and identify their key discoveries and innovations.

French: Our topic 'La chenille qui a très faim' will develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We will use bi-lingual dictionaries to find the meaning of words, extend our knowledge of grammar learnt in our clothes topic and, at the end of the topic, children will produce their own version of the text in a pop-up book, linked to our DT unit.

Art: We will be developing our skills using a variety of media (including sketching, charcoal, acrylic paint) to produce a piece of still life artwork. Using pencil and charcoal, we will focus on creating light and shadow and with acrylic paint we will focus on mixing colours to create a range of hues.

DT: We will explore mechanisms and structures, using sliders, pivots, and folds, to create our own pop-up books, linked to our French unit on The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Computing: We will continue to explore programming through our unit based around Physical Sensors in Computing this term. We will use micro:bit throughout the unit and create programs, understanding the importance of their order, to design and make our own step counters.

Music: We will start by exploring 'The Blues'. This will include identifying the key features of this style of music, understanding its origin and link to emotions, developing our understanding of what a chord is within the context of the 12-bar blues, playing a blues scale, and improvising using the notes from the scale. Following this, we will focus on our summer production through learning songs and developing skills in performance.

PSHE: We will start with health and wellbeing, where we will explore elements of both mental and physical health, including sun care, the transition to secondary school (Year 6 pupils), alcohol and drugs. We will then move on to relationships, where we will explore different types of positive relationships. Finally, we will explore our shared responsibility for the environment, linked to our science and geography units of work. We will also have our usual RSE (relationships and sex education) week this term. A letter will be sent out with more information beforehand.

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PE kit

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 at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

Homework

This term, we will be focusing on key skills in maths and English, both in class and for homework. 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. 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 - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. As we have now covered all of the spellings for the year, children should focus on practising any spellings they found tricky from this list (Year 5/6 spelling words).

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 the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables i.e. 0 times 5 is 0, 1 times 5 is 5, 2 times 5 is 10 etc. and knowing related division facts i.e. 0 divided by 5 is 0, 5 divided by 5 is 1, 10 divided by 5 is 2 etc. We will test times tables each Friday in school.

Maths and Reading - The children will be set a page of short questions from each book to complete for homework. This will be set on a Tuesday and is due by Friday.

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

Best wishes,

Miss Whinnett

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