

22nd February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the half term holiday. I hope you all had a restful break and I am delighted to see the children back with the same enthusiasm for learning! Amazingly, we are over half way through this academic year, and once again, I would like to outline the curriculum for this half term, including ideas for the children to continue their learning at home.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Miss Fisher

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our English lessons this half term will continue to develop children's understanding of spelling, grammar and punctuation. We will be identifying verbs, adverbs, nouns and adjectives in sentences, and using past and present tense verbs correctly. The children will continue to learn the tricky and common exception words to improve spelling accuracy. The children will be writing for a range of purposes, including instructions, recounts and explanations. This half term we are also focusing on developing reading stamina and fluency, and learning how to refer back to a text in order to answer comprehension questions.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Our maths lessons will continue to focus on developing confidence using a range of different strategies to support calculations. We will be encouraging the children to develop their mental arithmetic skills, and increase their knowledge of multiplication and division facts. We will be learning how to find fractions of shapes and numbers. We will also be learning how to read an analogue and digital clock to o'clock, half past and quarter past and will be doing some data handling. We will continue to develop children's skills when solving word problems and secure written methods for showing calculations.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>Now we are in the Spring term, we are going to learn about the seasonal changes that are happening at this time of year. In our science lessons, the children will think about the conditions needed for plants to grow. We will be planting seeds and looking out for the first shoots to appear. The children will be carrying out experiments to discover the conditions in which plants grow best.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be using the school ipads to develop their own animation using an app called 'Stop Motion Animation'. They will take a series of photographs, each time making minor adjustments, so that when played at speed the images appear to move.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>In our music lessons, the children will be exploring rhythm and beat, and will use body percussion and instruments to follow and develop a musical pattern. We will be learning a range of seasonal songs in our singtime sessions.</p>

<p>Art and Design Technology</p>	<p>We are looking forward to our trip to Abbot Hall to take part in a workshop based on Claude Monet's masterpiece "Haystack: Snow Effect" and will be using this experience to find out more about the life and works of this famous impressionist artist. We will then try to produce our own Monet style masterpieces!</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>Our indoor P.E. session will focus on developing fitness to music, and the children will develop their stamina and co-ordination by taking part in zumba sessions. These sessions will be led by Nicola Gale, a trained Zumba Kids instructor. The outdoor session will focus on developing skills used for netball, football and hockey. Please ensure that your child has a tracksuit (or similar warm clothing) and outdoor trainers for these sessions.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, the Religious Education focus will be "Easter". The children will be thinking about ways in which Easter is a celebration of new life. They will also be looking in the New Testament to read and then retell the Easter story.</p>
<p>School Values</p> 	<p>Our School Value this half term is "Respect" and pupils will be thinking about how we can respect ourselves, others and our environment. The children are already keen to do their bit to help look after our planet and those who have milk in the mornings are not using straws in order to reduce the amount of plastic waste we produce.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>At this time each year, the children are encouraged to think about Fairtrade, and how we can help others in poorer countries by buying Fairtrade products. The children will be thinking about the range of fairtrade products available to buy, and how whole communities can benefit by paying farmers a fair price.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The children will be locating where Fairtrade products come from on a World Map, and thinking about the journey these products have made in order to get into our shops.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>In history, we will be learning about the Fire of London and the plague, and the causes and consequences of these historical events. We will find out about Samuel Pepys, who lived through these two events and kept a diary detailing what happened at this time.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home in addition to the weekly spellings and Friday Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for Fairtrade products at the shops. • Think about ways to recycle, reduce or reuse items at home to protect our environment. • Find out about the life of Claude Monet. • Paint a picture in the style of Claude Monet. • Plant some seeds and watch them grow. • Read every day. • Practise the 2x, 5x 10x and 3x tables and know these facts off by heart. • Keep a diary of what you do.