

22nd February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the half term holiday. We hope you all had a restful break and we are 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, we 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.

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our daily phonics sessions will continue to focus on the various spelling patterns of the long vowel sounds. Initially we will be looking at the long 'o' and the long 'u' spelling families, whilst also revising previous learning, with the children applying their knowledge into different reading and writing tasks. The various writing activities that we undertake will link closely to our topics, for example, writing a set of instructions for how to plant a seed, enjoying and creating spring poems etc. We are also focusing on adding more detail into our writing, and helping the children to build up the stamina to write at greater length. Forming letters correctly, remembering finger spaces, full stops and captial letters and spelling tricky words correctly all continue to be key areas of learning.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>To begin with in mathematics, we will continue our work on addition and subtraction to 20. The children will become familiar with a range of methods to help solve calculations, such as using practical equipment, number lines, part whole models and using known number facts. In addition, we will be learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s, both forwards and backwards. The children will also work on missing number sequences. Finally, the concepts of length, height, weight and volume will be covered, in a range of practical, problem solving activities.</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 originate on a World Map, and thinking about the journey these products have made in order to reach 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 counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. • Keep a diary of what you do.

