

13th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school - I hope you have all had a lovely, relaxing summer holiday. The children have come back full of energy and enthusiasm and look very smart in their Castle Park School uniform. As customary, I would like to outline the topics and activities we will be covering this half term, so that you can have an involvement in your child's learning - as you can see we have a busy and exciting half term with our two main topics entitled "Superheroes" and "Africa". We are always delighted when your child wants to bring in a book or artefact that links to our topics, but politely request that no personal toys are brought into school.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Leck

<p>English</p> 	<p>During our English lessons, we will use a range of fiction and non-fiction texts which will support our topics and be a stimulus for reading, writing, speaking and listening. When writing, we will be focussing on correct letter formation and developing a neat, joined-up handwriting style. We will have a daily phonics focus and will be looking at spelling patterns to support writing and reading development. We will be drawing on personal experiences to write recounts and retell stories and the children will be encouraged to use capital letters and full stops correctly to demarcate their sentences.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In Year 2 maths lessons, we will focus on number patterns, counting forwards and backwards in jumps of 1, 2, 5 and 10, partitioning (splitting) and recombining numbers and making addition/subtraction calculations. We will be thinking about place value using two and three digit numbers and recognising the value of each digit in a number.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will be starting our ongoing topic exploring seasonal changes. We will be creating a Seasons table and welcome any objects of interest relating to Autumn. We will also be making regular recordings of changes in weather and charting these over time. Each term we have a whole school focus on one of the seven continents. This term we will be learning about Africa. Our science focus linked to this topic will be learning about some of the amazing habitats in Africa and finding out about the diverse range on animals that are adapted to living there.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>The children will be taught how to stay safe online and not share their personal details with the help of Hector and his friends using the https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/ website. We will also be developing typing/keyboard skills and using the child friendly search engine http://www.kidrex.org/ to find out facts which support and enhance our topic work.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>In our history unit this half term, pupils will be learning about real life superheroes such as Florence Nightingale and Edward Jenner. The children will be finding out about the life of these significant figures in history, and the impact they had on improving the lives of others.</p>

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>As part of our African focus this half term we are very excited about welcoming the Mighty Zulu Nation Theatre Company to school. A group of professional dancers and musicians from the Kingdom of Kwa-Zulu Natal (South Africa) will be teaching the children about their culture and customs. We will use atlases to locate different countries in the African continent, and learn about its climate, landscapes and geographical features.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our artwork, this half term, will be linked to our topics and the children will have the opportunity to use a range of materials such as paint, clay and textiles to create a range of pictures and models. This year, the school will be having a 'window' at the Lakes International Comic Art Festival in Kendal. The Festival team have given us the topic "Re-imagining Superheroes". We will be working with the Repair Cafe, a local community initiative that promotes repair, reuse and recycling, to design and create our display which will be showcased in the window at Miller Clear Architects LLP on Highgate.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>In our weekly singing session in Key Stage One, the children will be learning songs about starting back at school, Autumnal changes and songs that reinforce personal and social aspects of learning.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session each week. The indoor session will focus on developing floor skills such as jumping, travelling and balancing. The outdoor session will focus on passing and receiving an object such as a ball, using hands, feet, bats and hockey sticks.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, we will be exploring what different people believe about the creation of our world. We will be thinking about what stories say about God as the Creator. We will also be learning about how Harvest is celebrated, and hope to visit Rev. Jean Radley at St. George's Church following the Harvest Festival.</p>
<p>Global Awareness</p> 	<p>Our Global Awareness curriculum will focus on valuing similarities and differences in people from different cultures and learning about lifestyles, traditions and customs that are unfamiliar to us. The visit by the Zulu Nation Theatre Company will develop the children's awareness of cultural diversity and promote positive perceptions without prejudice.</p>
<p>Citizenship</p> 	<p>Our citizenship sessions will focus on settling back to school and remembering the school rules. The children will also be thinking and talking about issues surrounding friendships. Our whole school value which we will be promoting will be on the theme of being resilient, and not giving up when faced with a new challenge.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Telling the time • Looks at maps and finding out about different countries. • Going for a walk and looking for signs of Autumn.



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