

25th April 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. We have two exciting topics planned for this half term, starting with a science topic in which we will be learning all about "Plants", before moving onto a topic entitled "Our School Pond" in which we will be investigating the wildlife living within our school grounds.

Once again, thank you for all your continued support - it is very much appreciated.

Mrs Lois Bond and Mrs Rosie Clement

<p>English</p> 	<p>This half term, our literacy lessons will continue to focus on developing our independent writing skills. Pupils will be writing for a range of purposes including recounts, instructions, poetry and retelling stories. We will keep focussing on remembering to use a capital letter to start a sentence, finger spaces inbetween words and a full stop at the end. The children be using time conjunctions to organise recounts more coherently and make their sentences more detailed. As usual, we will continue to work on developing a neat handwriting style, and applying phonic knowledge to support spellings.</p> <p>We will continue to give the children lots of reading opportunities and encourage an ethos of "Reading for Pleasure". The children will answer questions about the texts we read in order to develop their comprehension skills and extend vocabulary.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>At the beginning of the half term, the children will engage in lots of practical maths work to develop their understanding of measures, including length, height, weight and volume.</p> <p>Pupils will start to develop their multiplication and division skills, working on x2, x5 and x10 times tables. They will work very practically at first, moving to pictorial and then written methods of calculation. They will use this knowledge to work on simple fractions of shapes and amounts, including halves, quarters and thirds.</p> <p>The children will continue to focus on developing their confidence when using numbers. They will use various apparatus and resources to build on their place value knowledge up to 100. Engaging in various games, models and activities will develop the children's understanding of 2-digit numbers. We aim for them to confidently partition 2-digit numbers into tens and 'extra' ones e.g. 75 is 7 groups of ten and 5 extra ones.</p> <p>The children will also be developing their knowledge and quick recall of number facts through their daily 'Learn Its' work.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>As part of our topic on plants, the children will be labelling the different parts of a flowering plant and finding out about their function. They will be thinking about the conditions for growth and planting a range of bulbs and seeds in order to observe the changes that take place. The children will be carrying out their own investigations and will be developing their skills when asking questions, making predictions and thinking about how to make the test fair by controlling the variables. The children will also be using pond dipping equipment and identification charts to learn about the diverse wildlife living in our school pond.</p>

<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>Our computing lessons, this half term, will focus on simple programming. Pupils will be using Scratch Junior which allows children to snap together graphical programming blocks in order to make characters move, jump, dance and sing. The children will also be using programmable toys such as Beebots, and instructing them to move around a course.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>Our history focus this half term will be linked to our artwork. We will learn about the life and works of the artist Vincent Van Gogh. The children will become familiar with some of his famous paintings and use these to inspire their own artwork.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Art sessions will support our topic work, this half term, and will incorporate a range of different skills such as colour mixing, painting, and drawing using pen and ink. The children will use Van Gogh's paintings as a source of inspiration for their own artwork, and will try to recreate his stunning "Sunflowers" masterpiece.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>The children will be learning Springtime songs and new songs that we sing altogether in school assemblies. They will be finishing off the unit on Peter and the Wolf by retelling the story in their own words and learning about the Russian composer, Sergei Prokofiev.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children will continue have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session this half term will be led by fitness instructor Nicola Allison who, alongside Mrs Bond, will introduce the children to Zumba (exercise to music). The outdoor sessions will focus on a programme of athletics in preparation for our annual Sports' Morning.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In RE lessons, pupils will be thinking about the question "Who was Jesus and why is he inspiring to some people?" They will be exploring the stories about Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible and learning about the messages within these stories.</p>
<p>PSHE, Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>This half term, our whole school focus is on the value of being responsible. The children will be thinking about their responsibilities when it comes to looking after themselves and the environment. Issues such as caring for our planet, and keeping ourselves safe and healthy will be discussed.</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 are fine) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Telling the time • Learning Times Tables (x2, x5 and x10)