

Kites



Curriculum Information Spring Term 2017 - 18

*Welcome back to the spring term! I hope you all had a relaxing festive break.
I would like to thank you for all the lovely cards and presents which I received at the end of last term, they were very much appreciated.*

Our whole school topic this term is 'Helping Hands'. Here is a brief summary of what the children will be learning about in each subject this term.

English

During this term the children will be learning about a range of genres including poetry, news reports, biography and autobiography. Twice a week the children will enjoy a Guided Reading session with their class teacher. The session includes reading, discussion and comprehension of books or texts, levelled to the children's reading ability.

Reading books and reading records (for children on the reading scheme) will continue to be taken home each night. The children should be reading independently or to an adult every night. The children will have the opportunity to change their reading books every day as needed and will be expected to do this independently. Library books will be changed once a week on Monday afternoons.

Mathematics

The different areas of the new National Curriculum are covered each term, building on prior learning. This term the areas of study will include: multiplication and division, fractions, decimals and percentages and measurement. As a whole school we will continue to develop the children's problem solving skills using the acronym RUCSAC (read, understand, choose, solve, answer and check) and also use the BAR METHOD.

The 'Cracking Times Tables' test will take place every Friday. The children will be tested at their own level and will have to complete a test within 3 minutes with a 100% accuracy to receive a certificate and move onto the next level. Please help your child with practising their times tables and also please ask them additional 'quick fire' mental maths questions whenever possible. The children should be working at Level 13 by the end of Year 4.

Science

For the first half-term we will be studying Animals including Humans. We will be finding out about the stages in the human life cycle and some of the changes which occur at each stage. We will be presenting data in graphs of different types and analysing what these graphs tell us. We will compare life expectancy and gestation periods for humans and animals.

After half-term, we will study Forces, when we will identify pushes and pulls and the effect these have on an object. We will investigate friction, air and water resistance, through practical experiments. We will also find out about levers, pulleys and gears and how these change movement.

R.E.

In the first half of the term, we will be investigating the key question 'Do clothes express beliefs?' and will explore how the Mosque is viewed and how it influences the life and belief of Muslims. In the second half-term the children will explore Lent and its significance for Christian belief and practice.

Creative Curriculum (History and Geography)

In history, the children will learn about the impact of World War Two on the area in which they live. This topic will be supported by a Key Stage 2 trip to RAF Hendon, where the children will participate in their 'World War 2 Classroom' workshop. More information about the trip will be sent home further into the term.

In geography, our unit is titled 'Is climate cool?' In this unit, the children will learn to read weather and climate maps, and learn how weather and climate are generalised into world climate zones. The concept of biomes will be explored, each with a distinctive climate, soil, flora, fauna and human activity.

Computing

The term will start with learning about internet safety. Then we will be investigating data, through the use of spreadsheets and databases. We will consider how both can help inform the drawing of conclusions. In the second half of term we will move on to looking at digital media and how films can be captured and edited using software.

Art

For the first half of term the children will be learning about Painting, after half-term our topic will be Collage.

Design Technology

Our learning will be linked to our History topic of WWII this term. The children will learn about the home front, rationing and digging for victory.

Music

The children will learn about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. The learning is focused around exploring and developing playing skills through the glockenspiel and the children will be exposed to notated music and use this according to their own experiences.

French

The children will continue to develop their vocabulary, skills and confidence in their French studies.

P.E.

On Wednesday afternoons in our P.E. sessions held indoors, we will be doing gymnastics and dance. On Friday afternoons, during outside P.E. lessons, the children will be participating in orienteering and other outdoor adventurous activities. Children are expected to have their P.E. kits in school every day. The P.E. kits should include P.E. T-shirts, shorts, outdoor trainers and tracksuit bottoms.

PSHE

For the first half-term our theme is 'I hope... I'm special'. We focus primarily on the key aspect of motivation. This topic provides opportunities for the children to reflect on themselves as individuals, particularly their strengths as learners and how they learn most effectively. During the second half of the term the theme will be 'I feel... I'm special'. This theme explores feelings within the context of our important relationships including family and friends. It aims to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings and empathy.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Monday and is due in the following Monday. It is an extension of the work being completed in class and it will be explained to the children. Spellings are set on Mondays and times tables are set on a Friday, the children are expected to practise both their times tables and their spellings each week. It would be ideal if the children could have use of a dictionary and a thesaurus at home to help with completing their homework. The children will also have a geography research homework for this term titled 'The Big Finish Report'. This piece of homework will be handed out on Monday 29th January and will be due in on Friday 9th February.

Homework expectations – KITES

	Year 4	Year 5
Daily reading	✓	✓
Daily spellings practice	✓	✓
Daily mental arithmetic practice	✓	✓
English	Weekly (25mins)	Weekly (25-30 mins)
Maths	Weekly (25 mins)	Weekly (25-30 mins)
Science	At teacher discretion	
Other	At teacher discretion	

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please come and see me.

*Mrs Tyzack
Class Teacher*