



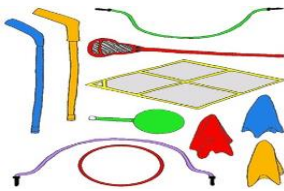
Welcome back to school!

I'm really pleased with how the children have settled back into school life after the summer and to a new year group. Our class TA is Miss Riley this year alongside Miss Kearny and Miss Harper who will be supporting individual children.

Just a few things:

Please can the children bring a sports type or flip top water bottle to school as the screw top ones often spill.

Can children bring a lightweight raincoat during the early part of the term if possible, we've had a couple of unexpected showers (as well as a downpour) and some children have been caught out!



We will have PE with Mr Priestley on Wednesday afternoon and the children will be swimming on Thursday mornings. They should come to school wearing PE kit on both of these days. Please can you ensure that the children have their earrings removed on PE days. A reminder that PE kit is plain white t shirt or polo shirt and navy blue or black tracksuit. These should not have any logos on.



Homework

Spellings have been sent home and there are activities to complete on Spelling Shed. These will help with the spelling patterns of the words we are learning. Some children are being assessed for spelling and will receive a different set of spellings, appropriate to their needs. The password and username for Spelling Shed are the same as the one used for TT Rockstars which also forms part of the homework. We will be having a timed tables test every week in preparation for the Multiplication check at the end of year 4. RE will be sent home just before we start a new unit so you can discuss this with the children and assist their learning at home.



Reading

The children have a book band book appropriate to the level they have been assessed at during the first week of term. They are also encouraged to choose a free reading book to enjoy in their free time. The children are asked to read to someone at home 3 times a week and an adult will hear them in class once a week too. Dojo points will be given out on Mondays for children who have 3 signatures from someone at home. I do not have a set day for changing reading books, they are encouraged to record the end of the book in their reading diary then an adult will check this and change the book where appropriate. This helps us to monitor when children are likely to need to be reassessed for their reading band.



RE

Our topics for this term are family, baptism and loving. We will also be looking at Judaism. In our family topic, we will be following the family tree of Jesus and finding out about the important people in his line. During baptism, we will find out the different ways people are called and how they are united through baptism. During the loving topic, we will explore all the different ways God shows us how he loves us.



English

We will basing our English on *Who Let the Gods Out?* by Maz Evans for the first half term and using this to help us write diary entries and persuasive letters. The children will also be completing reading comprehension lessons every day using a range of quality texts and sources.



Our first science topic will be a physics topic on Sound. This will be followed by living things and their habitats. Science will be taught by Miss Gibbens through the whole of the juniors as a new approach is trialled.



We continue to follow the White Rose curriculum this year and will be starting with place value. Please encourage the children to notice maths in the home. This could be by cooking or baking with them or even helping with the shopping. It's good for the children to see that maths is everywhere!



Art and DT

We will start with an art project this half term, exploring the role and style of ancient Greek pottery. We will look at the way decoration on the pots developed and then design our own in one of the four periods. We will then transfer our design onto a clay pot we have made.

We will be using Kapow to develop our design and technology skills later on in the term.



Music

We will be having music lesson delivered by our Trust music department this term and learning some musical instruments too! The children really enjoyed their first lesson!



History

Our history week will be full of interesting lessons about the ancient Greeks. We will be learning about their gods and the way they worshipped, daily life, Sparta V Athena and some of the Greek myths.



Geography

After half term, we will be learning about weather and climate. We will be looking at the effects of changing climate on weather patterns around the world and thinking about how people are affected by this.



Computing

We will continue to develop our knowledge of all things computing and IT related by first of all finding out about how networks and systems are used. We will then explore how to edit photographs using software packages. Mrs Oates will be teaching computing across the juniors this term.



French

We will continue to develop our French phonic knowledge to help with reading, spelling and pronunciation. We will then go on to learn about shapes (les formes) and vegetables (les legumes). I will be teaching our class French as well as the other junior classes.

I think the children will really enjoy our learning this term and I'm looking forward to sharing it with them. If you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

God bless

Mrs Fitzpatrick