



Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to teaching your children for the Lent Term and we have loads of exciting new things planned! Before I tell you about our exciting creative curriculum for the oncoming term, please take a few moments to read a few housekeeping notes!

PE

We are still requesting that pupils come into school on PE days already in their school PE kits. These should be a plain white t- shirt and a plain navy blue or black tracksuit. These clothes will be suitable for both PE and Forest Schools which are on alternating weeks.

The dates for Forest School sessions for the first half term are as follows: 18th January, 1st /22nd February, 7th/21st March.

PE sessions will be on the following dates: 11th/17th/25th/31st January, 8th /21st/29th February, 6th/14th/20th/28th March

Labelling of uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that children and lost items can be easily reunited. We are already accumulating quite a stash of unlabelled, and in many cases brand new, items of uniform.

Water Bottles

Pupils **MUST** have a water bottle in school every day. Ideally, these should be robust enough to withstand being dropped or accidentally knocked off the side without shattering and leaking please!

Homework, spellings and times tables

Each week, the children will be assigned times tables/division facts to focus on, which will link to the TTRS paper tests we will be doing in class.

In KS2, children are expected to read 3x per week with an adult, carer or older sibling. This should be documented in their Reading Diary with a pertinent comment about the child's reading itself or discussions you have had about the text/vocabulary. Last half term, each child was given a bookmark with discussion/question ideas to support these. Diaries will be checked each Monday.

Spelling pyramids will be given out at the beginning of each half term and uploaded to Dojo and the school website. These will be tested on Fridays and will be on Spelling Shed for children to practise. Children are expected to complete a minimum of 30 minutes practise on TTRS/SS each week. This will be checked on Fridays.

RE

This term, we will be switching from the 'Come and See' RE curriculum to lessons from the RED (Religious Education Directory) Curriculum. The focus for the first unit of work is The Beatitudes.

English

This half term, our reading will link to our main topic exploring the Kingdom of Benin. The two books that have been selected are 'Children of the Benin Kingdom' by Dinah Orji and 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo.

In the second half of this term, our reading will link to the topics of Earth and Space and Climate Change and Pollution. The books that we will focus on will include 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce and 'The Jamie Drake Equation' by Christopher Edge. Many of our children enjoy purchasing the books to read themselves at home, which is always pleasing to see! If the children do this and wish to bring their own copy in, I just ask that the book is clearly named and that if children read ahead, that they don't spoil important plot points for the rest of the class (no matter how tempting it may be!) All of our books this year have been chosen specifically to reflect and promote our curriculum themes of:

- Social Justice
- Community
- Keeping Safe and Healthy
- Conservation
- Movement of People
- Cultural similarities and differences
- Farming

We will be completing weekly VIPERS sessions that will introduce the children to culturally diverse and classic literature, as well as developing their understanding and implementation of more complex punctuation and grammatical structures.

Maths

We will be continuing to follow the White Rose Maths curriculum this term. We will be completing units on multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and percentages. Further information on the term's lesson contents can be found here:

<https://assets.whiteroseeducation.com/new-schemes/Year%205%20Scheme%20of%20Learning%20Small%20Steps%20Spring.pdf>

Every lesson will start with a 'Flashback' which will focus on questions based on learning from the previous lesson, week, month and year. Every Friday, we will be completing the Friday Challenge to ensure that we are keeping all our maths skills alive.

Please could you continue to encourage your children to use TTRS to maintain and further develop their knowledge and understanding as your child need to know these thoroughly and the corresponding division facts. This should form part of your children's weekly homework, particularly if your child did not pass the Year 4 Multiplication Check with 25/25.

Science

Our science focus this half term expands upon our learning about the properties of materials and begins to examine how and why these materials change. The BBC Bitesize website has some useful materials that can be used at home, for those who are interested in supporting their child in this area: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcvv4wx>

In the second half of this term, I'm particularly looking forward to our topic of Earth and Space, which I'm sure many of our children will be particularly knowledgeable about already!

Art and DT

We will be linking our art to our historical investigation by creating 3D African masks from recycled materials with the support of the artist Darrell Wakelam. This will take place in the form of a Zoom workshop with Darrell on the 12th January. Having looked at his website and some of the other

projects he has done with schools (<https://www.darrellwakelam.com/gallery>), I am very excited to see what the children create. I will be in touch nearer the time asking for materials from your recycling so please keep an eye on ClassDojo!

Music

In music this term we will continue to have whole class lessons from Mr Burton. I know that the children really enjoyed the opportunity to learn and perform songs on the ukulele last term, so I am excited to see what the new term will bring in terms of their progression on the Toots.

PE

This term we will be working on our gymnastics and dance skills with Mr Woolley and Mr Priestley. It won't be necessary to bring any additional kit to school for this, so please don't worry!

History and Geography

We will be learning about the Kingdom of Benin, which has significantly influenced the world as we see and experience it today.

In Geography in the second part of the term, we will be learning about 'Climate Change and Pollution', which is obviously something that we need to take very seriously due to the dire consequences not acting now may have for future generations.

Computing:

This term, we will begin exploring 'Creating Media – Video Editing' where learners will learn how to create short videos by working in pairs or groups. As they progress through this unit, they will be exposed to topic-based language and develop the skills of capturing, editing, and manipulating video. Learners are guided with step-by-step support to take their idea from conception to completion. At the conclusion of the unit, learners have the opportunity to reflect on and assess their progress in creating a video.

French:

In French this term we will be learning how to explain key dates in French, our clothes and the planets of our solar system.

If you have any questions about anything contained in this letter or any questions throughout the term please don't hesitate to ask. Parent's evenings will be scheduled in February, with opportunities to meet online or in person, where we can further discuss targets and weak areas for focus. However, in the meantime, your child will be given mini targets through marking and verbal discussions.

We are looking forward to this exciting term!

Mrs Oates