



Autumn 2

Half Term Information for Parents

Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

This information sheet tells you about what your child will be learning over the course of this half term, and will make clear how this learning links to our curriculum theme of 'aspirations'. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Aspirations

English: Children will read and explore the book, 'Escape from Pompeii', building on their knowledge of Rome and the Romans last half term, while also tying in to their new Geography topic of 'Natural Disasters'. Children begin by exploring the illustrations and creating mystery setting descriptions, using a variety of grammatical and authorial tools, going on to creating action, suspense and drama in their middle-sections and endings. In the final part of the sequence, children write their own historical stories, based upon the eruption of Vesuvius but using Herculaneum as named historical place, rather than Pompeii, and publish them in a class collection for others to read. Escape from Herculaneum! Children will then explore 'Shackleton's journey' (aspirations link) by William Gritt. They will learn about Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic exploration 'Endurance'. They will have the opportunity to write interview transcripts, diary entries, letters home and a newspaper report.

Spelling: Children re-visited high frequency words in Autumn 1 due to large gaps in spelling. As a result, we will be carrying over the spelling rules from Autumn 1, through to Autumn 2. Children will be taught one spelling rule each week. They will take this rule home and will be tasked with finding words which fit the rule. Examples will be displayed in the classroom and children will complete a weekly spelling activity assessing their understanding of the rule. Children will also practise and learn the spelling of two common exception words each week. Children will be taught the following spelling rules: adding the prefix im- (before a root word starting with m or p); Adding the prefix il- (before a root word starting with l) and the prefix ir- (before a root word starting with r); homophones and near homophones; words with /shun/ endings spelt 'sion' (if root word ends in 'se', 'de', or 'd').

Maths: Children will learn to round to the nearest 1,000, count in 25s and will begin to count backwards through zero to include negative numbers. They will learn to add and subtract 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s, add and subtract two 4-digit numbers, using formal written methods as well as then using inverse operations to check answers to a calculation. Children will convert between different units of measure, measure perimeter on a grid and the perimeter of a rectangle and perimeter of rectilinear shapes. Children will begin to explore multiplication and division; multiplying by 10 and 100 and dividing by 10 and 100. They will also divide by 10 and 1.

STEM (Digital Music and Awareness):

Digital Music: Children will build on their knowledge of music as a significant tool in creating mood and inspiring artwork (Autumn 1), they will use Garageband, on the ipads and in the computer suite, to explore musical arrangements and how arrangement can create mood. They will create their own soundtrack to enhance a video of a volcano erupting (inspired by their Geography/History work exploring the eruption of Mount Vesuvius).

E-Safety: Persuasive design: explaining that the majority of games and platforms are businesses designed to make money. Their primary driver is to encourage users to be online for as long as possible to encourage them to spend money (sometimes by offering incentives and offers) or generate advertising revenue, how designers use notification to pull users back online. Staying safe online: Using a range of given scenarios, children will consider the best and most responsible course of action

using the NHFS 'zip it, block it, flag it' icons.

The Arts (Art and Music):

Children will create paintings inspired by the book *"The Great Wave: A Children's Book Inspired by Hokusai"* by Véronique Massenot and Bruno Pilorget and the painting *The Great Wave off Kanazawa* by Katsushika Hokusai. They will explore perspective by dividing their paintings into the foreground (first 2 waves), background (horizontal line and mt fuji) and middleground (main wave). Children will first practise their use of line to create wave-like lines using different mediums (pencil, oil pastel and paint). They will explore brushstrokes will select the correct thickness of paintbrush to create the desired line and thickness. Children will explore mixing colours effectively and will create a 'warm' palette and a 'cool palette'. They will consider the emotions linked to and evoked by each of their colour palettes – which colours will match each elements of their painting and why? Children will first sketch the images within each of the three sections of the painting and will then create a bold outline, using a black oil pastel. Children will then use a mixture of warm and cool colours to complete their wave painting. Children will create Christmas felt snowmen decorations, stitching pieces together using thread and needle and adding a ribbon handle.

Children will consider a musical arrangement to match an image of Mount Vesuvius erupting in 79AD. They will then work in groups to create their own piece of music to match this image (carried from Autumn 2). While practising and performing within our KS2 Christmas Nativity, children will learn a repertoire of new songs, as well as practising familiar Christmas carols. They will learn to perform these in ensemble and solo (elements of) contexts, using their voices with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression.

Geography: Children will study the following naturally occurring 'disasters': volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Children will map the locations of volcanoes and earthquakes and study the significance of these locations (terrestrial and marine). They will study the defining physical characteristics of the land and why volcanoes are located here and why certain areas in the world are prone to earthquakes, where others are not (ring of fire). They will label the tectonic plates surrounding the 'ring of fire'. Children will use shaving foam, food colouring and crackers to re-create their own versions of transform, convergent and divergent boundaries. Alongside their learning about earthquakes, children will learn about tsunamis and how/when these occur. They will study the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, watching footage of the wave and considering its devastating impact. Children will mark the location of the following volcanoes on a world map: Mauna Loa (Hawaii): Vesuvius (Italy): Nyiragongo (Democratic Republic of Congo): Popocatepeti (Mexico): Krakatau (Indonesia): Changbaishan (China): Galeras (Colombia): Mount Etna (Sicily). Children will learn about the different key features of a volcano and how/why volcanoes erupt. Children will explore the different climate zones of the world and will map those areas most prone to hurricanes. Through their study of William Shackleton's Arctic exploration children will identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).

RE: Following the Northumberland 'SACRE' scheme of work: Children will listen to some of the stories told by Jesus about God (The Unforgiving Servant and The Rich Fool) and will consider what they reveal about God's character. They will understand that Christians see God as a creator, loving parent and friend. Children will listen to stories from the Bible in which Jesus reveals his 'specialness' (Healing the Sick and Feeding the 5000). They will understand the effect which Jesus had on those whom he met (The Paralyse Man, The Rich Young Man). They will learn about Jesus' disciples (Fishermen of Men).

Judaism: Festivals and Celebrations (Hanukkah) – children will learn about aspects of Hanukkah through assemblies. **Christianity: Festivals and Celebrations** (Advent, Christmas) – children will learn about aspects of advent and Christmas (the Christmas story). They will create their own cardboard

Advent wreath and will understand its significance to Christians.

French: family, months, numbers 21-30. Children will be taught to: listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding; explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words; engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help; appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.

How can you help?

- Please ensure children use their planners daily; checking them each night so that PE kits and reading books are brought in on the correct days.
- **READING:** Often children will have tasks to complete for guided reading (e.g. reading a chapter before the next week). These will be recorded in planners to remind children. Please write a brief note and signature if you listen to your child read.
- Help your child to explore their weekly spelling rule where they are tasked with finding at least 5 words which fit this rule. It is the words which they find which will form our spelling check.
- Children complete a 'CLIC' test in maths each Friday and you will begin to see their score gradually increase. I will send these home in planners to allow children the chance to practise strategies at home as this will help them to beat their score.
- Encourage your child to login to Times Tables Rockstars daily.

Homework

The homework which we set will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey. Children are given a spelling rule each week to practise and learn at home. They then complete a spelling check activity the following Friday to check their understanding of this rule. Additionally, we provide children with a half termly homework grid with a range of activities linked to our topic.

Visits/Visitors/Reminders

06.11.19 Operation Encompass PSHE session

07.11.19 NUSem Street Scientist Team – 'Young Scientists' workshop

09.11.19 Wartime singing at church

11.12.19 KS2 Christmas Performance