



Autumn 2

Half Term Information for Parents

Year 3

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. We are continuing with our theme of "Aspirations" and will be using this as a hook to cover the National Curriculum. This half-term, we will use our study of Europe in Geography and books, such as *The First Drawing* by Mordecai Gerstein and *Heart in a Bottle* by Oliver Jeffers, to encourage children to write.

Themes: Autumn – Aspirations

English: Writing: Children will develop a strong understanding of persuasive writing and discover a range of persuasive writing devices through reading a variety of travel brochures. Children will build up a bank of resources to create their own persuasive brochure to encourage people to "Visit Europe". Children will be encouraged to take useful vocabulary from good examples of brochures and utilise them in their own work. Children will build up their knowledge of Europe in Geography lessons and apply them to their written work. Children will read "The First Drawing" by Mordecai Gerstein and complete a sequence of lessons whereby children will create recounts as characters from the story and retell the story from memory in addition to learning grammatical skills such as adding exclamation marks, using modal verbs and writing in the first person. Children will also complete a set of lessons based on the book "Heart in a Bottle" by Oliver Jeffers. They will use images of the setting to make inferences, add prefixes to root words and become aware of how this can change a words meaning. They will also plan and create a story with a dilemma, similar to that of the class text.

Reading: Children will continue to take part in a group reading session, once a week. Here, we will study the structural and language features of a text while also fostering a love of reading across a range of genres. Children will develop their prediction skills as well as justifying inferences with evidence.

Speaking and Listening: Children will use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary, exploring synonyms with a wow word of the week and vocabulary taken from class novel as part of our "magpie words" display. If children find wow words at home they are welcome to add them to our display! Children will create shared writing at times and use turn taking to create a whole class piece of writing with shared ideas from class members.

Maths: Using a Mastery approach in Maths, we will begin to add and subtract numbers across 1,000 using many strategies, primarily the columnar method. We will develop our understanding of the inverse operation and use this to check our answers. We will begin to study multiplication. In particular, children will recall multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Children will show that they can multiply 2-digit numbers to 1-digit numbers successfully. They will use this knowledge to progress towards using written methods to solve words problems and missing number problems.

Times Tables Rockstars: We will begin to complete friendly challenges weekly where we will attempt to complete 60 familiar times tables equations in 4 minutes. This is a personal challenge aimed at improving times tables fluency (speed of answers) and children are not encouraged to compare results.

PE (Commando Joes and Multi-Skills): Children will be continuing the final missions based on the real life events experienced by Sir Ernest Shackleton. These will involve using resilience and team work in addition to building key skills that are required in physical activity and sport. Once these missions have been completed, children will begin working on basic movement skills such as finding space when travelling and passing a ball in numerous ways.

French: In French, your child will learn how to follow basic instructions in addition to basic conversations starters. Your child will develop their French vocabulary by learning to count and write numbers to 12, completing a basic Maths lesson in the process. Your child will develop further conversational skills by commenting on the weather. Children will also use their understanding of prepositions in English, to say classroom objects in French.

Geography: Children will further their understanding of Europe as a continent alongside the European Union to accompany learning in English. Children will be able to annotate a world map and show that they can label capital cities of European countries. As part of this, children will label the Houses of Parliament on a map in addition to the 3 main locations of EU parliament. Children will compare similarities and differences between key geographical aspects of the UK, Europe and South America. Children will be able to describe well known rivers, mountains and monuments in Europe.

Science: Your child will discover and analyse different types of rocks and learn about forces. They will learn how to group rocks based on their appearance and physical properties, using correct scientific vocabulary. Children will explore fossils and how they are formed and develop an understanding of the contents of soil. As part of our topic of aspirations, the children will discover a range of careers linked to the study of rocks, soil and fossils. Children will label forces and magnets, understand how a magnet can repel, compare how objects move along various surfaces using gravity and friction and understand which objects are magnetic and which are not.

Art: This half term, your child will study the techniques and famous works of Andy Goldsworthy. Children will analyse his previous work and use them as inspiration to create their own artwork using natural objects. Children will create observational drawings of their sculptures and annotate them showing reasoning for certain choices. Children will also make links to their previous learning in History and their current learning in English (The First Drawing), to draw their own versions of cave paintings.

Over the Christmas period, your child will take part in various arts and crafts opportunities, which are still currently being planned!

RE: Children will be looking at the role that God plays in Christianity as well as looking at evidence of goods forgiving nature through the reading of Old Testament stories. They will learn about how Christians see God as the Holy Spirit and consider the role that God plays in day to day Christian life. Children will learn that Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God and is referred to as Christ, about some stories explaining how Jesus helped people and the effect Jesus had on people who met him. We will also learn about the Hindu Festival of Lights (Diwali) and the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Over the Christmas period, your child will study the Nativity and the meaning of Christmas amongst Christians. We will also take part in a Christmas themed performance with Year 4.

How can you help?

- Often children will have tasks to complete for group reading. You can read your child's book to them to help with these challenges. You can let me know when you have read with your child by writing in their home reading journal.
- 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 Times Tables Rockstars test in maths, each Friday and you will begin to see their score gradually increase.

Visits/Visitors

Children in Need – Friday 13th November

Year 3 Parent Consultations (via telephone) – Wednesday 11th November

Christmas activity dates TBC