

16th January, 2015

Dear Parents,

YEAR 5 – TOPIC LETTER

Outlined below is the curriculum your child is following this term. We hope that it will be of use to you when discussing school with your child and looking for ways in which you can support them at home.

English: We will be starting off the term looking at various stories.

- Fiction: significant children's writers
- Non-fiction: instructional texts, recounts and reports
- Sentence structure, proof reading and drafting skills, direct speech, advanced punctuation marks and to continue to develop reading and writing through a range of genres.

Maths: Following the new maths curriculum, children will be learning and exploring numbers and the number system including fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also continue to reinforce and extend use of standard written methods for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. We will be learning how to interpret basic statistics including graphs, tables and tallies and will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Science: This term we will continue with our on-going topic of life-cycles looking in more detail at the different life cycles of plants, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians and humans. We will continue this topic throughout the spring and summer observing changes in the local environment. We will also be learning about the Earth, Sun and Moon and why day and night and the seasons occur. We will learn about the phases of the Moon and the orbit of the Earth around the Sun and the Moon's orbit around the earth. A visit to the NASA website would be a great place to find out more.

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/home>

Computing: In computing this term we will continue to learn about the history of computing and the impact that technology has on our lives. We will build on the programming that children learnt last year by learning how to program and control robots. We will be using our new Lego Mindstorm robots and the children will learn to program them to perform simple tasks using a range of sensors and inputs. Throughout the term we will be using computers across the curriculum to research and present information. We will also be looking at how computers can be used to create and manipulate images and graphics.

History: Children will be learning about Greece and the ancient Greek civilisation. We will be looking at the Greeks' lives at home, work and play. We will learn about the difference between Athens and Sparta and will talk about 'democracy'. We will also be learning about their gods and goddesses and warfare.

D.T This term we will be looking at toys with moving parts. The children will then design, make and evaluate their own moving toy with a cam mechanism.

Music: We are using the 'Sing-up' and Charanga scheme, singing and using appropriate instruments.

R.E: This term we will be learning about Christianity, Judaism and Islam. We will reflect on different ideas and beliefs about God and think about what challenges, influences and inspires us as individuals.

P.E.: During this term we will be concentrating on gymnastics – where we will be using balancing and travelling to build sequences.

Games: All children will have the opportunity to practise the skills required for participating in hockey and netball.

Art: In Art we will be looking at the work of famous artists and will be creating artwork using a variety of different techniques and mediums.

Geography: In geography we will be finding out about the Earth's climate and areas of extreme temperatures, about the water cycle and the distribution of water across the world. We will be finding out about extreme weather conditions across the world, earthquakes and what causes them. We will also learn about volcanoes and tsunamis.

French: We will be using Language Angels in class to develop our vocabulary and will start to speak and understand simple sentences and phrases.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Martindale
Class Teachers

Mrs. A. Gorin