

Primary 3/4/5

Term 4 Newsletter



We hope you had a fantastic time over Easter. We have a busy term ahead but an exciting one.

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend our Romans Assembly and open afternoon. The pupils enjoyed sharing their learning and have asked to perform their Assembly to the rest of the school.

Topic

The whole school are focusing on a short topic based on car engineering. P4 and P5 are currently undertaking a project whereby they are building battery operated cars and the P3's are working with the P1 and P2's to build shoebox cars. All pupils are learning key skills such as team work, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. These attributes are key skills which the children will continue to develop for life and the world of work.

Following this mini topic, we will then move our focus towards Health and Wellbeing. Our learning will encompass a range of emotional and mental health subjects. Themes will include emotions, friendship, resilience, memories, changes and consequences. We will base our learning on the film 'Inside Out' and develop skills such as independence, responsibility, using our initiative and communication. We will link emotions to the Arts and study a variety of artists and their work which reflect a range of feelings.

Towards the end of the term we will participate in another school focus, based on 'The fairground'.

Literacy



Spelling

This term we are continuing to follow our new spelling scheme. The children have been encouraged to use a range of spelling strategies to help them develop their spelling abilities and decoding skills. The next step is to ensure that the pupils are transferring this spelling knowledge into all aspects of writing.

Tricky words

In conjunction with our weekly spelling words, we will continue to focus on learning to spell key words by sight.

Writing

We are currently undertaking formal letter writing. The pupils have asked if they can approach companies asking for donations to buy electrical circuit components following our Science open afternoon last term.

We will then proceed onto persuasive writing and debate. The pupils will discuss a variety of situations and build the key skills necessary for this genre through modelled examples and drama opportunities. Thereafter, they will write their own arguments with supportive evidence on a variety of topics.

Towards the end of the term, further narrative writing options will emerge connecting to our topic.

Reading

This term we are continuing to concentrate on our comprehensive skills and undertaking a variety of both written and oral reading tasks based on our group reading books. Learners will be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of text through individual, paired and group activities.



Numeracy and Maths



This term we are introducing the pupils to a new Math's approach called Big Maths which "uses basic skills as the foundation for all mathematical concepts and develops true fluency, reasoning and problem solving in a fun and engaging way". The pupils have just begun this Big Maths journey for their numerical work surrounding the 4 operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also use this new approach for developing and consolidating our fractions knowledge before progressing onto coordinates and data handling.

The class will continue to work on mental maths and times tables as well as our problem-solving skills.

How to help at home

Many pupils are continuing to engage with the Sumdog App in the home environment. This is one method for helping to strengthen our learner's mental maths skills. Please continue to encourage your child to regularly use Sumdog and Hit the Button app and orally practice their recall of times table facts. The pupils are beginning to understand that these basic number facts are imperative in order to progress their learning.



All homework will be given on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Tuesday.

Spelling - We ask that children write out their spelling words three times each and complete one spelling activity task each week. A new spelling activity grid is contained within their homework jotter. With your support, these activities should be fun and will consolidate strategies developed in class.

Tricky words - Each child has a list of tricky words that are unique to their own learning. The pace and frequency of these words will depend on each child. Please help your child learn to spell these words.

Reading - Pupils will continue to read in a group. Their reading will be heard at a variety of times during the week as documented in their reading jotter.

Whole school homework - a variety of activities will periodically be sent home for the pupils to engage with and enjoy.

Timetable



Monday - Assembly

Tuesday - Homework in

Wednesday - PE (table tennis/badminton/athletics)

Thursday - French with M. Journe / PE with Mr Galloway/Homework out

Friday - Free Choice Friday

Please make sure your child has a freshly filled water bottle each day. Also, all children should have a silent reader with them in school - this could be a novel, magazine, newspaper etc. We want to encourage ERIC time - Everyone Reading In Class as a means of raising the profile of reading and encourage our children to read more.

Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit every day, including a hoodie and outdoor trainers as we will be conducting PE outdoors whenever possible this term.

Thank you for your support. Please don't hesitate to get in touch about anything relating to your child in school.

