

Pearl Class Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Welcome to Pearl Class and year 4. We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year. We hope you have enjoyed the summer holiday. The children have come back full of news and excitement for the new term. This newsletter will give you an insight into some of the work we will be covering and will give you a few pieces of information about routines.

Equipment

Please could you make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day as we are encouraging them to drink water to stay hydrated and help their concentration. They are also welcome to bring in a pencil case with pencils and glue if they wish. It would be helpful if they could bring in some headphones to use during guided reading and during laptop sessions.

Literacy and Maths

We will continue to link our literacy work to our 'Cornerstones' topics but will also study particular texts to deepen our understanding of stories. Our text for the first half term is called 'Fly Eagle Fly' and after half term we will study 'Oliver and the Seawigs'.

Within maths we will cover place value; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division and area this term.

Home learning

We will be setting maths and literacy home learning on a Monday. The maths home learning will be on Mathletics and the literacy home learning will be on Spellodrome. The children will have the login details in their contact books. If your child is unable to complete Mathletics and Spellodrome at home please let us know (by a letter or a note in the contact book) and they can attend the daily lunchtime homework club. Thank you for your support with helping your child to complete their home learning on time.

Reading

The children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes EVERY day. The children must record this in the reading record page in the contact books. Please listen to them read at least once a week and record this in the contact books. By doing this you will help them move along our reading Road to Success and receive a prize!

Computing

We will start our computing work with some internet safety sessions and then move on to use the computers to support our class topics. We will also be completing some programming practise using the software 'Scratch' which is available free online.

P.E

Thank you to all of you who have sent in PE kits already. Our PE lessons are on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please could you ensure that earrings are removed for PE days as we do not want any accidents.

Please could also you make sure that all PE clothing items are named as they do sometimes get mislaid. Some of these lessons will be outside, even during the colder months so please make sure your child has the following:

- Plimsolls or trainers
- T-shirt (coloured t-shirts are available from PMG schoolwear)
- Shorts
- Jogging bottoms

Within indoor PE this term we will start with gymnastics and then move on to dance after half term. For our outdoor lessons we will study Rugby and Golf. We are lucky to have Mr Tanner from Coombe Boys School to lead our outdoor PE lessons. He has already started teaching us some fun games to improve our touch rugby skills. Not having PE kit in school on PE day may lead to a red mark.

R.E

Our focus for R.E. this half term is Hinduism and we will enjoy some of the religion's stories and find out how the senses are involved in Hindu worship. In the second half term we will complete some work on Christmas and find out how it is celebrated around the world.

Cornerstones

Our first topic this term is 'I am Warrior' which includes work on how the Romans invaded and ruled Britain. We will study soldiers and how they dressed, lived and ate. We will also find out about Roman houses and how they were decorated; the life of children and the delicious food that Romans enjoyed.

We are very excited to be going to Lullingstone Villa on 3rd October and a letter explaining more about this trip will be coming home soon.

We would like to invite you to our express at the end of the topic to show you what we have learnt on ***Wednesday 11th October at 3.20pm in the classroom.***

After half term we move on to a new topic called Potions which will link into our science work about changes of state. We will have lots of fun making different potions and designing and making bath bombs.

French

We will be studying the names of animals, describing words for people's personalities and revising our French numbers this half term. We will then move on to naming family members and objects in the classroom.

Contact Books

The children will continue to bring home contact books. These will be signed each Monday in school and we would appreciate you doing the same at home. If you have any messages for the teachers please use the contact book.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our annual harvest festival on Monday 18th September. Harvest festival is a celebration of the food that is grown on the land. To mark harvest at Knollmead we will be having a special assembly and would like to donate food to a local charity. Therefore, please send your child into school with a small donation, such as tinned food, fruit, vegetables or dried goods such as pasta and rice on ***Thursday 14th September.***

We are really looking forward to working with you to help your children make the best possible progress.

Ms Culpin and Miss McRae