

Crystal Class Newsletter

Autumn 2017

A very warm welcome to Crystal Class. We hope you had a restful holiday and feel refreshed and ready for the coming year. We have a busy term ahead of us, continuing to work through the Primary National Curriculum and beginning our exciting topics.

This newsletter will give you an insight into some of the work we will be covering and will provide some helpful reminders.

Home learning

We will be setting home learning three times a week - English on Monday, maths on Wednesday and topic related work on Friday.

We are always very grateful for your support and if you can ensure that your child completes their home learning neatly and by the correct day it will be much appreciated.

The children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes EVERY day and must record their reading in their contact book.

To give the children the opportunity to complete their home learning at school we will be running a home learning club every lunchtime in 'The Hub'. Please encourage your children to attend if they struggle to complete their home learning at home.

Maths

This year the cohort will be taught as a whole year group by the class teacher. During the first term there will be a heavy emphasis on number and we would actively encourage parents to continue practising and reinforcing essential areas of mathematics such as times tables and place value at home.

Star Reader

This year in year 6 we will be introducing the star reader system. Your child is encouraged to read every single day, to you or with you. In your child's contact book they will receive a star reader sticker each week they have recorded five separate entries with an adult. After this they will receive certificates when they receive 3, 5, 10, 20 and 30 star reader stickers. If your child manages to obtain 30 star reader stickers they will also receive a new book. This year in year 6 we are seeking to promote reading and hope you will support us with this new initiative.

Computing

This term the children will cover two fundamental areas of computing: E-safety and databases. The children will be made aware of how to ensure they use the internet safely on all electronic devices.

P.E.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in PE kits already. Our PE lessons are on Wednesday and Friday. 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

Over the course of the term, the children will be developing their skills through a number of gym and dance activities, whilst the focus of our outdoor sessions will be tri-golf and tag rugby.

R.E.

Our focus for R.E. for Jewish worship in the home and synagogue. After half term we will be learning about Christmas in the church.

Cornerstones

Our first Cornerstones topic will be Blood Heart, which predominantly focuses around the respiratory system and the purpose and functions of the heart. Children will watch a dissection of a sheep's heart as well as attempt to replicate a heart using clay. After half term we will move on to a topic called 'Revolution'. The topic focuses on the Victorian Industrial Revolution and will require the children to understand Victorian Britain and the importance of the Industrial Revolution.

Class Assembly

We would like to invite you to our class assembly on *Friday 13th October at 2.50pm* in the hall to show you what we have learnt.

French

This year the children will have a French lesson every week taught by a French teacher from Coombe Girls' School. They will be continuing to work through the Rigolo scheme to learn the French Language.

Contact Books

The children will continue to bring home their contact books this year. These will be signed on a weekly basis 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. These books will also contain your child's reading record.

Leavers' Hoodies

We will be sending out a letter this half term about how you will be able to order and purchase leavers' hoodies. The children will be allowed to wear the hoodies in the second half of the summer, after their year 6 SAT's. The letter will contain all the details regarding the cost and the closing date for ordering them. Please be one the lookout!

Secondary Transfer Meeting

Please do not forget to attend a meeting about the process for applying to secondary schools on *Thursday 14th September at 9am or 2.50pm in the school hall.*

Walking home from school alone

If you wish for your child to walk home alone from school, please send in a letter giving permission.

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 look forward to a happy and successful year.
Mr van de Wiel & Mrs Trimble (TA)