

# **Emerald Class Newsletter**

## **Autumn Term 2017**

Welcome back to the new term! We hope you all had a relaxing summer break - it was lovely to see all pupils arriving to school on Tuesday excited and ready to start the new term. We are really looking forward to working with you again over the coming year.

### **Curriculum Topics**

Our topic this half term is 'Moon Zoom' and we will be looking at everything to do with space - linking our maths and literacy to this as appropriate. We are really excited that the Planetarium are visiting the school on the 13<sup>th</sup> September to start us thinking about space and the solar system, and to provide pupils with a new sensory experience.

We are planning some exciting craft projects related to this topic so if you have any old plastic bottles, toilet roll holders, cereal boxes or tissue boxes etc. please send them into school as we will be able to make use of them when we build our own Emerald spaceship!

After half term our topic will be 'Splendid Skies' which will focus on the weather and seasons. We will be arranging a trip to look at the effects of the weather on our local environment, and will write to you about this later in the term.

### **Literacy**

The books we read in literacy lessons will be different for individual pupils, focusing on their reading and comprehension levels; and their personal interests. Pupils will be set homework related to these books so that you will be able to see the books that they are reading. We will continue to develop reading and spelling through phonics lessons - where this is appropriate - and will send you resources to enable you to work on this with your children at home.

### **Maths**

During the first half term we will spend time practising and consolidating the knowledge and skills gained last year, before we move on to new topics. As last year, all learning will be personalised to individual pupils taking into account their current levels and the short term outcomes set at annual review.

### **PE**

PE will be on Monday afternoons and we are fortunate to have coaches from Fulham Football Club Foundation coming in to deliver our PE lessons. They will cover a variety of sports over the year, starting with football in the autumn term. Where appropriate your son will also access PE with his mainstream year group.

### **Inclusion**

Your son will access mainstream lessons where appropriate and we will speak with you individually about this. All Emerald pupils will continue to join their mainstream peers at assembly, lunch and playtime. They will also be invited to attend trips with their mainstream year groups.

### **Community Visits**

Community visits will start later this half term and we will write to you separately about these. This year we will be taking smaller numbers of pupils out at a time so that they are able to gain more from the experience - for example shopping, ordering drinks at the coffee shop - improving their independence and communication skills.

### **Music Therapy**

We will also continue to access the Music Therapy service this year. Our therapist Kamila from The Richmond Music Trust will be with us every week and your son will receive individual / group therapy on a rota basis over the year - we will let you know the details once the timetable is finalised. The pupils really love these sessions and we are sure they will continue to benefit from them during the course of the year.

### **Home learning**

Home learning will be provided every Friday and will be linked to the work we are doing during the week - to be returned by the following Wednesday. We will also send home a weekend diary for your son to complete - we share these on Monday afternoons and are a good opportunity for the pupils to interact with each other and adults.

If there is anything specific you would like to work on at home then please let us know and we will work on developing resources for you. There is also additional work your son can complete on Mathletics - [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com) - your son's username and password is in the front cover of his diary.

We understand that completion of school work at home may be challenging at times; please do not hesitate to let us know if this is a problem.

### **Reading**

We will send home reading books appropriate for your son and we would appreciate it if you would continue to fill in the reading record book so that we can see how he is getting on with reading at home.

### **Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy**

Sarah Cox will be continuing to work with Amie Kennedy on providing Speech and Language Therapy sessions for all pupils, and will also advise on strategies for the Emerald team to use during the week. Laura Moore will continue to work with us as our Occupational Therapist assessing and setting individual targets for each pupil.

### **Harvest Festival**

We will be celebrating our annual harvest festival on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> September.**

We are really looking forward to working with you and your children over the coming year and we thank you for your continued support.

*Debbie Hall, Sarah Terrey, Matt Head, Poonam Narse*  
**Emerald class team**