

YEAR 3 AMBER CLASS

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful holiday and feel refreshed, ready for the coming term. We have a busy term ahead of us, continuing to work through the Primary National Curriculum and beginning more exciting topics.

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

First, I would like to let you know that our class motto is:

I can't do it yet, but I will one day!

This is what we are going to tell ourselves every time we find something tricky and we are struggling with it.

Vocabulary

As you know, vocabulary is a big focus area for us at Knollmead and we have identified some of the words that we will be learning to use and understand this term. Anything you can do at home to reinforce the meaning of these words or help your children to use them confidently would be really beneficial.

Our focus words are: overwhelmed, forces, friction, artefact, ancient, article, tattered, exaggerated, persuade.

Raffle tickets

A reminder that year 3 operate a raffle ticket system. As a class, we produced a list of things that we can do to earn raffle tickets, such as helping others and working hard to complete personal targets. If a child is awarded a raffle ticket, their name will be written on it and all raffle tickets will be put into a pot. Two winners will be drawn randomly on Friday afternoons, and they will be able to choose a small prize from our prize box.

Homework and spellings

The children will be given topic and Mathletics/Spellodrome home learning on alternating weeks. These will be set on a Monday and will be due the following Monday. A grid for the topic work will be sent out. We had some fantastic homework last term, it was great to see the children throwing themselves into it! I hope to see this continue throughout this year. The children have their Mathletics/Spellodrome logins in the back of their contact books. The children also have daily spellings packs at school, which they can bring home to practise.

If your child does not have access to the internet at home there is a Mathletics and Spellodrome club running every lunchtime. If you have any questions about this please ask me.

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.

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 and an adult should sign it. Please listen to them read at least once a week and record this in the contact books. We are really focusing on them **understanding vocabulary**, so please make sure they have a dictionary, ipad or computer to look up words they do not understand whilst they are reading. Alternatively, encourage them to ask you the meaning of unknown words.

The children in Amber class also have the chance to complete a book review sheet whenever they read a book. This is not compulsory, but is a good way to encourage them to talk about the book. Children who submit a book review form during the week will be given an extra raffle ticket.

Computing

This half term, the children will be focusing on animation. They will be making their own animations on a program called JiT5, and learn how to save this as a gif and download it to a personal documents folder.

After half term, our focus will be on fake news and teaching the children how to identify fake news.

P.E

The children will have PE lessons on Wednesday and Friday afternoons so it is necessary for your child to have a full, named PE kit in school on these days (this does include plimsolls or trainers for outdoor PE sessions). Please ensure that the children are prepared as the lesson could be indoors or outdoors depending on the topic and the weather.

Over the course of the term, the children will be developing their skills through a number of gymnastic activities with Fitness4schools, and will also be having outdoor sessions, focusing on netball skills.

R.E

This term the children will be learning about what Hindus believe that God is like and identify some Hindu deities and ways in which Hindus worship. In these units children will make sense of belief by giving meanings for the story of the man in the well and explain how it relates to Hindu beliefs, connect the four Hindu aims of life and the four stages of life and give evidence and examples to show how Hindus and put their beliefs into practice in different ways.

Cornerstones

Our first topic in the spring term is *Gods and Mortals*, which has a history focus. The children will learn all about life in *Ancient Greece*, what discoveries were made then and how these influence our lives today. As part of this topic, we will be having a 'Greek Day' on **Thursday 31st January**. It would be great to see the children get involved in this and come into school dressed as they would have been in *Ancient Greece*!

After half term we will move on to a topic called *Flow*, which is based on *Geography*. As part of this topic they will be learning about rivers and water flow.

We will be inviting the parents in at the end of each topic to see what the children have been learning; our first Express this term will take place on **Monday 11th February at 3pm** in the classroom.

Science

Our topic in science this half term is 'The Power of Forces'. As part of this topic, the children will have the chance to test out different forces which can make an object move, including magnetic forces. We will also continue to update our tree diaries from last term.

After half term, we will begin the topic 'Amazing Bodies'. During this topic, we will learn about why we need food, what we need to stay healthy and what our skeletons and muscles are needed for.

PSHE

In PSHE this term the children will be looking at the topic 'Dreams and Goals'. Throughout this topic we will think about identifying our own successes and achievements, and the work we have done to deserve these. After half term we will be looking at the topic 'Healthy Me'. In this topic we will cover what being healthy means, what being unhealthy means, and how to make the right choices to stay healthy.

French

The children start to learn French in Key Stage 2 and they will have a French lesson every week. We will be working through the Rigolo scheme which is a fun and interactive scheme that helps them to learn the French language.

Contact Books

The children will continue to bring home contact books. 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.

I look forward to an enjoyable term!

Miss Curtis