

Crystal Class Newsletter

Spring Term

Welcome back, after what was hopefully an enjoyable Christmas break. Firstly we'd like to thank you for your support during the autumn term. It helped your children to settle easily and we are pleased to report that they have made a good start to the year. We are now ready to embark on another busy term, continuing with working through the Primary National Curriculum and starting new topics in the foundation subjects.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards, wishes and gifts we received.

Homework

We will continue setting homework three times a week - spelling on Monday and maths on Wednesday. Topic related work will be set on a Friday, but will only be expected fortnightly. The children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes EVERY day (including Saturday and Sunday). The children must record this in their reading records.

Thank you to all of you who support your children so well with their homework. The red mark procedure will be continuing. Please ensure that you sign your child's contact book at the end of every week and assist them to remember their equipment e.g. P.E. kit, etc.

Homework and Athletics clubs will continue to run throughout the week in the hub. Please encourage your children to attend if they struggle to complete their homework at home.

Star Reader

Currently the years 5 and 6 'Star Reader' system has been working very successfully. There is a high emphasis on reading across the school and we look forward to continuing to hand out even more star reader certificates. The race is on for the first child to receive their platinum and rainbow awards!

SATs

In Year 6, we would like to take this time to remind you that the SAT's will be commencing the week of the 13th May 2019. We appreciate any extra work that you are doing with helping your children to secure vital mathematical facts such as times tables. We will be focusing on fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio in the spring term.

Topic

This term our cornerstones topic, Frozen Kingdom, will run over the entire term, both before and after half term. The topic focuses on the Polar Regions, with a specific focus on the Polar explorer Ernest Shackleton and the Titanic. The children will be learning about the role and importance of Shackleton's polar expeditions, as well as life on board the Titanic and how the 'unsinkable' vessel sunk.

This year to help children navigate through some of our topics key vocabulary, and to aid parents when working with their children at home, we have attached a list of a few topic words. The words below are considered to be 'Tier 2' words, indicating that they are not subject specific, such as words like longitude and latitude, but are key pieces of vocabulary that the children will encounter during this term. They are also words that would strengthen their reading understanding and writing.

Tier 2 Words Spring 1: explorer, journey, voyage, expedition, blizzard, temperatures, rescue, crew, station, resources, oil, gas, natural resources, plateau, ice-maze, frost-bite, hypothermia.

Tier 2 words Spring 2: sinking, chaos, upper/lower class, evacuation, pandemonium, jeopardy, jubilation, vessel, ocean-liner, distress.

Computing

This term your children will be creating their own animations using 'Stop animation' and will start using 'J2E Bloggy' to gain an understanding of blogging .

P.E.

The children will continue to have PE lessons on a Monday and a Friday so it is necessary for your child to have a full, named PE kit in school on appropriate days (This includes trainers and a navy blue or black sweatshirt for outdoor PE sessions). Be 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 gym activities and the focus of our outdoor sessions will be netball and tennis

R.E.

Our focus for R.E. for the first half term is 'Why do Hindus want to be good?' After half term we will be looking at 'What do Christians believe Jesus did to *save* people?'

French

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

PSHE

Over the course of this term the children will be looking at two PSHE focuses: 'Dreams and Goals' and 'A Healthy Me'.

Contact Books

The children will continue to bring home their 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.

School trips & leavers hoodies

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Year 6 residential will take place the week of the 25th June, and that the end of year leavers hoodies are also available to order via parent pay up until the end of the spring term.

Class motto:

I cannot do it yet, but I will keep on trying: I will succeed!

We look forward to a happy and successful term
Mr van de Wiel, Mrs Trimble (TA) & Mrs Heaton (TA)