

Crystal Class Newsletter

Autumn Term

A very warm welcome to Crystal Class. We hope you had a restful holiday and feel refreshed, ready to face 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.

Homework

We will continue setting homework three times a week - spelling on Monday, Maths on Wednesday. Topic related work will be set on a Friday, but will only be expected fortnightly.

Thank you to all of you who support your children so well with their homework. The red mark procedure will be continuing so 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.

We are always very grateful for your support and if you can ensure that your child completes their homework 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 homework at school we will be running a homework club at lunchtimes in 'The Hub'. Please encourage your children to attend if they struggle to complete their homework at home.

Maths Groups

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, place value, and multiplying by 10s, 100s & 1000s..

Star Reader

This year in Year 6 the 'Star Reader' system will run, much in the same way as it did last year. 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 signed by an adult.

Children 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 and school-wide we are seeking to promote reading and hope you will endeavour to support us. Challenging children's understanding of what they are reading, as well as their vocabulary is highly recommended.

Computing

This term the children will cover two fundamental areas of I.C.T: E-safety, where the children will be made aware of the risks of the internet as well as other electronic devices, and databases, which will be covered in the second autumn term.

P.E.

The children will have PE lessons on Monday and Thursday, so it is necessary for your child to have a full, named PE kit in school on appropriate days (this does include trainers for outdoor PE sessions). The children will need to 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 and dance activities, whilst the focus of our outdoor sessions will be tag rugby and quick sticks hockey.

R.E.

Our focus for R.E. for the first half term will be looking at creation and science: conflicting or complementary. After half term we will be considering the question: why do some people believe in God and some people not?

PSHE

This year in PSHE we will be following a program called 'Jigsaw' which adopts a mindful approach towards PSHE. In the first autumn term we will be looking at 'Being me in my World', whilst in the following half term we will be 'Celebrating differences'.

Science

In science this term the children will be looking at 'Body pump', a topic that studies the heart, the circulatory system and what is needed to keep the heart and body healthy. After half term the children will be engaging in 'Danger, Low Voltage', an area of study that covers electricity. This topic will see the children create simple circuits, make switches and compare series and parallel circuits.

Cornerstones

Our first Cornerstones topic is 'Blood Heart', which predominantly focuses around the respiratory system and the function of the heart. The children will watch a live dissection of a lamb's heart as well as attempt to replicate a heart using clay. The topic will have an art focus. We would like to invite you in to see what the children have learnt on **Wednesday 17th October**.

After half term we will move on to a topic called 'A Child's War'. The topic focuses on the life of a child in WWII. This topic focuses around DT and will require the children to design and create their own Anderson shelters.

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.

Applying for secondary schools

May we take this opportunity to inform you that the closing date for your son/daughter's application for secondary schools is 31st October 2018 and the local borough authority strongly recommend that the applications for secondary schools are completed before the October half term. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the school office.

If you wish for your child to walk home alone from school, please send in a letter giving permission. Even if your child received permission to walk home alone last year, we do expect your child to bring in a letter for this academic year.

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