

Coral Class Newsletter

Spring Term

Hello!

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all! I hope you had a great Christmas break and managed to find some relaxation amongst all the madness. As you would expect, we have another busy term ahead and I hope this newsletter gives you some idea of the work we will be covering and will provide some helpful reminders.

Homework

We will continue to send home a creative homework grid each half term and the children will need to complete a piece of homework from this sheet once a fortnight (due dates will be on the grid). They **must** complete one of the entomology tasks, but other than that the children can choose which tasks they do.

In the other weeks we will set some tasks on Mathletics and a target score on Spellodrome for the children to achieve. Again, if there are any problems with completing this for any reason, please ask your child to speak to one of us in good time so that we can help resolve any issues.

We are always very grateful for your support and if you can ensure that your child takes their time, puts in an appropriate amount of effort and presents their work neatly, it would be very much appreciated. If anyone needs any help at all with resources or ideas, they can speak to myself or Mr Head at any time. Anyone who does not hand their homework in on time will have to stay in at lunch time to complete it.

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 child to attend if they struggle to complete their home learning at home.

Star Reader

The children are expected to read for at least 15 minutes **EVERY** day and must record their reading in their contact book as part of the Star Reader incentive. We have been really impressed with how well some of the children are doing with this so far, receiving lots of stickers and certificates. It would be great to see everybody making their way up the board and heading towards a special prize if they make it to 30 stickers!

One of our key focuses as a school is the **understanding of vocabulary**, so please make sure your child has access to a dictionary, ipad or computer to look up words they do not understand whilst they are reading (or encourage them to ask you the meaning of unknown words).

Contact books

The children bring home their contact books into school every day. These will be signed on a weekly basis in school (Monday) and we would appreciate it if you could do the same at home. Just a quick signature is all we need. If you have any messages, please use this book (or a separate letter if confidential). These books will also contain your child's reading record; children are asked to keep a note of everything they read at home and we will also note any reading they do with an adult in school. Please initial where you child has noted their reading.

Computing

This half term, the children will be starting to look at making short animation films using special software (Stop Motion) on the iPads. They have already started to plan their ideas and are very excited!

P.E.

The children will have PE lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays (please note the change of day). Please ensure that your child has a full, named PE kit in school at all times (please also remember to send the kit back in if your child attends a sports club after school during the week). Please include plimsolls/trainers for outdoor PE sessions - trainers are better if possible as plimsolls do not grip as well outdoors, especially if the ground is damp. The lessons could be indoors or outdoors depending on the topic and the weather, so the children need to be prepared for both!

Over the course of the term, the children will be developing their skills through gym, dance and netball.

R.E.

Our focus for R.E. for this half term is continuing to look at aspects of Christianity.

Cornerstones

Our Cornerstones topic for the whole term will be *Scream Machine*. The topic is going to be split into two halves: DT and geography. This is an exciting topic and covers everything from the science behind roller coasters, learning about forces, designing roller coaster carriages, looking at theme parks around the world and much more. There will be plenty to keep the children engaged and busy!

Science

In science this half term we are going to be learning all about forces, what makes things move, how we can slow them down, why things fall, etc. We will be visiting the Science Museum on Friday 8th February for a *Feel the Force* workshop - more details to follow very soon!

PSHE

Our first topic in PSHE is 'Goals & Dreams'. The children will be thinking about their aspirations and hopes for the future.

French

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

Vocabulary

As a school we are continuing to focus on extending our vocabulary. For example, in literacy we are working hard to improve the way we describe something. Words we will be using include: complex, diverse, intriguing, extraordinary, abundant, plethora, dumb-struck, awe-inspiring, garment, coiled, pristine. And many more...

If you have any questions about any of the above please do come and chat to me.

If you have a particular interest in any of the work we are doing, or perhaps your job or hobby links into one of our topic areas, etc, you would be very welcome to come in and talk to the class. Just let me know!

Thank you.

Mrs Jenkins

Coral class motto: *I can't do it yet...but nothing can stop me from trying!*