

# Pearl Class Newsletter

## Spring Term

I hope you had a fun and restful holiday. Many thanks for all your warm Christmas wishes and very thoughtful presents. They were greatly appreciated. We have an exciting term ahead and this newsletter will give you a flavour of what is coming up.

First of all I would like to share our new class motto which aims to encourage children to think that anything is possible.

I can't do it yet, but just try and stop me!

We will have this motto in mind as we face challenges together for the rest of the year.

### Vocabulary

As you know, vocabulary is a bit 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: peak, aim, sheer, perish, hunched, creak, shattered, murky, immeasurable, constantly, draught, particles, microscopic, droplets, contained.

### Equipment

Pupils in year 4 need a water bottle at school every day please. Please could these be a reusable bottles as the school has no facilities to recycle single use plastic bottles.

They are also welcome to bring in a pencil case and those children who have received their pen licence can bring in their own blue handwriting pen. We do have pens available if they do not wish to bring their own.

Headphones are also useful for computer lessons.

### Literacy and Maths

This half term the children will create a thrilling story about a mountain exploration; a poem about a mountain and an information leaflet linked to Islam. After half term we will study poetry and write our own poems.

Within maths we will finish our work on subtraction and addition before moving on to length and perimeter; multiplication and division and then area. Please continue to help your child practise their times tables at home for their 144 club tests. Knowing their times tables will help them greatly when we are studying multiplication and division.

### Cornerstones

Our first topic this term is called 'Misty Mountain Sierra' which allows us to look at some of the world's mountains. We will cover map reading skills (such as map symbols and coordinates) and learn about contour lines. We will have an assembly on Friday 8th February at 2:50pm for you to find out about some of the things we have been doing this half term.

We will then move on to another topic after half term called 'Raiders and Traders' which finds out about Saxons and Vikings and how they travelled, lived and dressed.

### Homework

We will continue to set work on Mathletics and Spellodrome each fortnight. We will also send home the homework project choice sheet linked to our Cornerstones topic and we ask that one of these activities is completed each fortnight.

### 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. Please listen to them read at least once a week and

record this in the contact books. By doing this you will help them move along our reading '**Road to Success**'. Lots of the children have already moved from a scooter to a bike on our reading road and they are keen to progress to a car!

### **Science**

We will first complete our topic from last term 'Where does all that food go' and have been on a fantastic trip to the Science Museum to watch their show 'It takes guts!'. We will then move on to our new topic called 'In a state' which will help the children to develop their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases. After half term we will study electricity and make simple circuits in our topic called 'Switched on'.

### **Computing**

The children will develop their ability to use Google drives and use its presentation software 'Google slides' to create a slide show about mountains. They will also make an animation linked to our Science work on the water cycle.

We will also be learning about blogging this term and adding blogs to the school website. Your child will be able to log on at home and show you this work.

### **P.E**

Our PE lessons are continuing on Tuesdays and Fridays. Thanks so much to the parents who put names into the shorts and T-shirts. It makes it so much easier to return clothing to the correct child. Please could you ensure that earrings are removed for PE days as we do not want any accidents. Some of these lessons will be **outside (even during the colder months)** so please make sure your child has **all** the following:

- Plimsolls or trainers
- T-shirt (coloured t-shirts are available from PMG schoolwear)
- Shorts
- **Jogging bottoms or leggings**

Within indoor PE this term we will be doing some dance work with African rhythms. Within outdoor PE we will be learning to play netball and using 'High-Five' rules.

### **R.E**

Our focus for R.E. this half term is how festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim. After half term we will look at how festivals and family life show us what is important to Jewish people.

### **French**

Within French this term we will cover units on animals and on the family. We will learn to say who is in our family and what they are like and to describe common animals.

### **Contact Books**

The children will continue to bring home contact books daily. These will be signed each Monday in school and we would appreciate you signing them once a week at home. If you have any messages for the teachers please use the contact book.

We are really looking forward to another fun and hardworking term.

Ms Culpin, Mrs Kearns and Mr Young