

Year 3 Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and were able to spend quality time with your families. We would like to thank you all for the very generous Christmas gifts we received.

This is going to be another busy term of learning, including a collaborative theatrical performance by both Years 3 and 4 of 'Jonah - a fishy tale' - something definitely to look forward to! It's therefore wonderful to see the children coming into school full of positivity and raring to go!



Topic This term, much of our learning will focus around our new topic '**Extreme Earth**'. We hope the children will be geographically inspired as they learn about volcanoes and where they are found around the world. Children will begin to understand why volcanoes erupt and the impact an eruption has on the environment. Through this topic we will explore a whole range of creative topic-based learning across all the primary subject areas.

Art & DT The children will use topic work as inspiration for their artwork this term. We will first study the work of Japanese artist and print maker Hokusai and then recreate famous images using a variety of media, including a 3D model. Children will develop their ideas through the use of their sketchbooks. Later on in the term, we will explore the works of British artist, Nick Roland, and develop our own knowledge and understanding of colour through painting.

Science This term, we will be studying rocks. The children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and they will explore the properties of soil. Children will continue to develop their scientific enquiry skills, making observations, predictions and conclusions.

English We begin the term by studying Phillip Pullman's beautiful fairy-tale, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', where we will focus on developing our descriptive writing of both character and setting whilst also consolidating previous grammar and punctuation learning. We will then go on to study 'Explanatory texts' and 'Information texts' linked to our topic work.

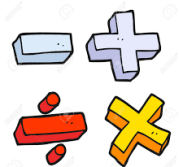


How you can help your child:

** Please try to read regularly with your child, if possible at least 4x per week. Reading aloud helps them to decompose new words and understand their meaning. Therefore developing your child's vocabulary. Please sign their planner to help us keep a record of their reading.*

** Talk about the books they are reading: What was their favourite bit? Did they have a favourite character? What do they think will happen next? Lots of discussion helps develop children's language and understanding of the text.*

Maths In Maths we will continue to develop our numerical understanding. We will be looking at using all four functions in a variety of contexts, including money and measure, as well as exploring fractions and statistics. Part of each lesson is devoted to mental maths and all the children are working towards increasing and improving their mental and written calculation strategies.



How you can help your child:

- * *Encourage mental maths skills such as adding and subtracting differing amounts.*
- * *Rehearse times table facts and related division facts.*
- * *Provide opportunities for practical measuring in metres, cm, and mm.*
- * *Give them experience of handling and identifying money, working out costs of items and change. When shopping work out which offers are cheaper and by how much.*
- * *Support your child in telling the time on analogue and digital clocks.*

RE In RE, the children will discuss the question: What do Jewish people believe about God, the Covenant and Torah? We shall explore stories from the Bible and use these to help deepen our understanding of the Covenant. We will also learn about the Torah and its importance to Jews.

PE PE will take place on Tuesday afternoons and, for this term, will also incorporate swimming lessons on Friday mornings. PLEASE make sure your child has their FULL PE kit in school at all times and their swimming kit. PE is a vital part of the curriculum and we would hate for the children to miss out if they do not have the correct kit with them.



Home Learning As in the previous term, each week your child will be given words to learn at home and at school. The children will be tested on these on a Friday. The children will also be set additional weekly tasks to be completed at home that will consolidate learning activities carried out in school. These will include maths and topic based work. Homework will be handed out on a Friday and due back in on the following Wednesday.



Please feel free to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. I am always happy to see parents at a convenient time.

Thanks for your continued support,

Miss Holmes and Mrs Chapelle