

TERMLY LETTER



Where learning has no limits

10th January 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Spring Term. Thank you for all your support last term in hearing readers, helping on school outings and helping class teachers. Also many thanks for your generous Christmas gifts.

In **Maths** we will be continuing our work with counting and understanding numbers and using these facts. We will also be developing knowledge and understanding of shape and measuring, including estimating and comparing.

Our topic this term is 'Oceans' and we will be basing all our learning around this.

In **English** this term we will be reading a number of stories based under the sea or about the oceans, such as Rainbow Fish, James and The Giant Peach, Commotion in the Ocean, How To Catch A Mermaid and Turtle Tracks. Through the use of these stories we will complete a number of cross-curricular activities. In English we will use these as a stimulus to write letters, character descriptions, diary entries, play scripts, labels, lists, captions, instructions, newspaper reports, poetry, myths and legends, fantasy settings and information texts. We will also be learning about shipwrecks, pirates and how to reduce pollution in our oceans.

Children will continue to take part in guided reading sessions and continue to develop their letter formation. There will also be daily phonic sessions and we will focus on sentence construction. Grammar work will include the -er suffix and use of apostrophes for belonging eg Peter's hat.

In **Science** we will use our English work as a stimulus to learn about invertebrates and vertebrates and classification, marine habitats, foodchains, sinking and floating and climate change/pollution.

In **RE** this term, we will be considering the differences and similarities between major Christian and Jewish celebrations and considering What Does It Mean To Be Me?

This half term we will be looking at the **Geography** of oceans. We will be learning the names of oceans and seas, the water cycle, migratory patterns of whales and the different layers of the sea. After half term we will have a **history** focus which will be beach and coastal holidays and how they have changed over the years.

In **Computing** we will be using Paint programs to design pictures, adapting our methods to use different computer brush and colour techniques. We will learn to store, manipulate and retrieve our own content. We will be using the internet to find and use images for our topics in English. We will also be programming beebots to collect treasure on a treasure map.

Music – We will be using musical instruments to make a short composition based on the theme of 'Under the Sea'.

Art and DT – We will be designing and making Rainbow Fish models from clay, ocean sock animals, show box aquariums and completing a range of under the sea art using different mediums.

PE - PE takes place on Monday (PE – Gymnastics) and Tuesday (Outdoor PE).

Children will need PE kits on these days. We would be grateful if you would check that all items of clothing, including new sweatshirts, fleeces, shoes, plimsolls and trainers are clearly named. Children need warm joggers, a warm top and an optional hat for cold weather.

Children with pierced ears should either remove their earrings on PE days or bring surgical tape or plasters to school to cover them.

Please check that shoes fit as we did have a few children complaining about squashed toes before the holidays.

HOMEWORK

I will be sending out a grid of homework activities that will be a mix of maths, English, craft and investigative activities. Children are to complete one activity, of their choice, from the grid each week. Parents are to sign and date next to the activity that your child completes and this to be handed in with the homework each week. I will sign in recognition of completion of homework and the grid will be sent out with the child very Friday so they can complete different activities for the following week.

Reading should continue to be completed every night and the record book signed.

All books and homework should be carried to and from school in clearly named book bags. We would be grateful if you would discourage your child from having lots of keyrings on their bookbag as these take up a lot of room in the chair pockets.

Water bottles should be named and kept separate from books.

MORNING BREAK

All children are provided with a piece of fruit during morning play. Children may bring their own fruit or veg for the afternoon break. We are a school that understands the importance of hydration so please ensure your child/children have a clear, named water bottle freshly refilled every day for the classroom.

CLUBS

Please check updates on ParentMail for information about clubs.

TRIPS

I have organised a trip to the London Aquarium for the 1st March to link with our learning of topics. Please use ParentMail for more information.

We thank you for your support and look forward to an exciting and fulfilling term.

Yours sincerely

J CLEMENTS