



Class 2 Newsletter Spring Term 2018



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you had a fantastic Christmas and you have a wonderful 2018! I would just like to thank you for the lovely cards and presents.

The children and I really enjoyed our topic 'Street Detectives' last term and I am sure you would agree; they learned such a lot!

Topic

This term our topic is 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'. The children are really excited about this topic and we have already discussed some of their ideas for what we could learn over the next 12 weeks. Over the term, we will look at a variety of structures including castles, towers, sculptures, bridges and tunnels. The children will be learning about parts of a castle and we will be visiting Tutbury Castle on Monday 5th February to meet a knight and Queen Elizabeth I! A little later on in the term, we will learn about The Royal Family and their role in leading our country. During the second half of the term the children will be learning about the engineer Isambard Brunel and what structures he has influenced in Britain. The children are really interested in our local area and we have decided to go on a walk of Armitage and Handsacre to look at the bridges and tunnels we have and what they are used for. There will also be opportunities for the children to find out more about their own areas of interest linked to the topic. In French we will be learning new vocabulary e.g. the names of different types of buildings and we will use these new words to form oral and written sentences. In RE we will be exploring how members of different faiths worship and celebrate for example how they use gestures, actions and rituals such as singing, praying and playing musical instruments.

Literacy

We will be using a range of different fiction texts including fairy tales, nursery rhymes, 'The Tale of the Castle Mice' and non-fiction texts all linked to our overall topic. The children will be writing character descriptions, sequencing stories, creating Wanted posters, as well as writing their stories and making an information text. They will continue to improve their use of punctuation (including full stops, exclamation marks and question marks), WOW words, connectives (including because, but, so, or), openers (e.g. Sometimes, Often, After a while, Suddenly) and they will learn how to use different sentence types in their writing (statements, questions, commands and exclamations.) The children will also continue to follow the Letters and Sounds Phonics Scheme to develop their reading and spelling skills. Coming up in a few weeks, there will be a phonics workshop for you to find out more about this. Last term, the children worked really hard to learn how to join their handwriting. We will continue to practise this skill as the presentation of the children's work is really showing signs of improvement. The children will be tested on their spellings every week. Please continue to practice their words at home both by writing, saying and recording in sentences. The children will also be learning about spelling in their Literacy lessons including some work on homophones, suffixes and tenses.

Numeracy

The children will be continuing to multiply by 2, 3, 5 and 10 and will be also learning to divide. Practising these times tables with the children would help them improve the speed that they can recall these facts. They will be learning addition and subtraction facts for each number to 10, 20 and then multiples of up to 100. The children will be solving problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using numbers, measures, pound and pence. Over the term, they will also be describing patterns and relationships involving shapes and numbers, identifying reflective symmetry and drawing lines of symmetry in shapes. I would like to focus on improving the children's mental calculations and will therefore be completing a task each week to try and practise these skills. If you could help the children at home by adding two small numbers together (such as 6+3) this would help improve the children's speed of calculation.

Science

This term the children will be looking at All Living Things and Animals including Humans. During this time we will be developing our understanding of what it means to be living and how living things are different from each other. The children will be learning how to classify animals as reptiles, mammals, birds, fish, insects and plants. Over the term children will also have the opportunity to learn about what it is to be a human and comparing ourselves against each other. After half term we will focus more on how to keep ourselves healthy including how to keep ourselves clean and how to eat a healthy diet. At this point we will learn the names of the food groups and how we should plan out our meals. These will include carbohydrates, protein, dairy products, fruits and vegetables and fats and sugars.

PE

This term the children will be doing PE on a Monday and then on a Wednesday or Thursday (alternating each week). The children will need their PE kits in school for these sessions. Could the children have their PE kit in school at all times and please could you make sure that your child's kit is labelled as it makes it so much easier to return if it gets mislaid. If the children have earrings, they will need to be able to remove them independently or they should not wear earrings on the days we have PE. After the Easter holiday, the children will be going swimming. Sometimes, the children who have not been in a swimming pool can be quite anxious about this; so if you could take the children to a swimming pool to experience getting themselves changed and playing in the water, it would really help them feel more confident in preparation for this part of their educational development.

Homework and Reading

Each Friday the children will be given a piece of Numeracy or Literacy homework which will be due in on a Tuesday. Please support your child and encourage them to complete it, as it is their opportunity to practise skills that we have been learning in class that week. If for any reason your child can not complete the homework then do not hesitate to come and see me. We will continue to read on Mondays and Thursdays. Please put a comment in their reading record book after you have listened to them read as this is a valuable communication between you and us on how the children are progressing at home. As mentioned earlier, the children will be tested on spellings weekly and will be sent home with new spellings each Friday. I cannot emphasise the importance of practising these spellings at home. It gives the children such pride as they learn to use these spellings in their own writing.

Reminder

I am very keen for the children to drink plenty of water during the day. Therefore I ask that each day your child brings a fresh bottle of water to drink throughout the day. Also the children can still bring in a snack for morning break time or toast money in order to get toast. Please try to make the children's snacks as healthy as possible.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate to come in and see me before or after school or I can be contacted via email to staff15@croft.staffs.sch.uk or through the school telephone number 01543 490261.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs S Richards