

Newsletter

The Den - Autumn 2014

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school after what, we trust, was a restful summer break. They have already settled well into school and classroom routines and have slotted easily and happily back into friendship groups.

This term our theme is “Remember, Remember”. We will be using ‘War Games’ by Michael Foreman, ‘The Best Christmas Ever’ by Michael Murpurgo and a range of WW1 non-fiction texts as our stimulus and adopting a creative approach across all areas of the curriculum.

Literacy

Through these texts children will learn

- to empathise with characters
- to create speech between characters
- to write a descriptive setting
- to identify key events in a text
- to write letters
- to write instructions
- to write a non-chronological report
- to appreciate a range of war poems

Drama will be used whenever possible as a stimulus for writing.

Reading

There will be a quiet reading time in the classroom between 8.45 and 9.00am every day when children will be expected to settle quickly with their reading books. Children will be given guidance in choosing books which match their reading ability. We continue to encourage children to read to an adult at home throughout the week and use their reading record to record their own feelings/responses to the text. We also ask if you could sign in your child’s creative learning log that you have heard them read at least once a week. In class we will also have Guided Reading sessions, which provide the children with the opportunity to read individually to an adult in a group situation.

Numeracy

This term our topics will include-

- Place value: reading, writing, ordering and comparing whole numbers to 10,000 and beyond, and understanding what each digit represents.
- Addition and subtraction: using standard methods to add and subtract up to pairs of 4 digit numbers. Finding differences between numbers by counting on.
- Multiplication and division: understanding multiplication as repeated addition and arrays, understanding division as repeated multiplication, dividing whole numbers and finding remainders.
- Using standard formal methods for multiplication and division. Practising times tables.
- Shape and Space: classifying polygons and quadrilaterals, recognising types of triangles, rehearsing names and properties of common 3D shapes, using compasses to draw circles, recognising reflective symmetry and axis of symmetry.
- Time: telling time on an analogue, and 24hr clock to the nearest minute.
- Recognising fractions and mixed numbers and recognising equivalence of simple fractions, simplifying basic fractions

Science: The topics to be covered are:-

Electricity

In this unit of work children will recognise that appliances use energy to work. They will recognise dangers associated with electricity and understand how to keep themselves safe. They will create their own circuits, draw circuit diagrams, understand and make switches for circuits and explore how to make a bulb brighter.

Light

In this unit of work children will identify sources of light, understand that light travels in straight lines and opaque objects form shadows. They will understand that to see, light needs to enter the eye. They will investigate that white light is made up of many colours.

Art and D + T

The children will look at the work of WW1 artist Paul Nash and have the opportunity to create their own paintings in his style using a range of media. They will also have the opportunity to learn simple sewing stitches to sew their own WW1 handkerchiefs.

R.E.

The children will consider what the concept of peace means for religious and non-religious people and for themselves. They will explore why it might be important in people's lives and how it might be promoted in a variety of different ways.

ICT

This term we will be reminding the children of how to stay safe on the internet.

Support you can give:

Below are some suggested activities that you can do, that will support the learning in the classroom.

Literacy – encourage your child to read across a range of genre and provide opportunities to discuss texts.

Numeracy – discuss time (e.g. television programmes), practise measuring (e.g. cooking, reading scales) and times tables facts

Topic- Visit war memorials and acknowledge the information inscribed.

Visit WW1 exhibitions and appreciate the centenary occasion.

P.E – Practise throwing and catching ball skills.

Music

We will learn to appreciate and sing many songs that would have been enjoyed during WW1.

Geography/History

The children will identify, using maps, the countries in Europe which were responsible for the beginning of WW1. They will use maps and begin to understand why the Europe map looks different nowadays. They will understand main events of WW1 and place the period of time in history. They will understand how life was different in the 1900's.

P.E.:

Children will develop ball skills e.g. throwing and catching leading up to playing bench ball and throw tennis. There will be a focus on agility, games skills and team building.

Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is in school at all times and that they are provided with trainers and a sweatshirt for colder days.

Homework:

Children will continue to use their Creative Learning logs for homework tasks. These will be sent home on Friday and collected the following Wednesday. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability. As part of their ongoing homework, your child will need to continue to practise reading at home to an adult and to learn set spellings and times tables. Please sign creative learning logs when you hear your child read.

And finally:

We hope that you have found this newsletter useful in providing information on your child's first term. Please do not hesitate to see us at the end of the school day should you have any queries or concerns. We are looking forward to making our programme as creative as possible and providing many opportunities for independent learning.

Yours faithfully,

