

# The Drey Newsletter

## Welcome back!

It has been lovely hearing about all the children's activities over the summer. We all seem to be settling into our new class well and looking forward to the term ahead. Our class rep is Mrs Vessey and Mrs Budd will be working in The Drey every morning.

Our theme this term is "Hard Times," and we shall be looking at the Victorians. Some children have already brought in some interesting items to share with the class on this topic.

Thank you for your support.

## Literacy:

Some of the fiction texts I intend to use this term are:

'Fair's fair' by Leon Garfield, 'Oliver' Retold by Gill Tavner and 'The Twisted Tunnels,' by Terry Deary.

We will identify how the author conveys these stories are set in the past by using specific nouns and discuss literary features used to create atmosphere, tension or vivid detail. We will begin to use some of these ideas in our own writing to create some dramatic stories.

We will also be looking at a range of non-fiction texts including information from the internet. Using menus, contents, index and glossaries will help us locate information and our skimming and scanning skills should help us retrieve relevant facts quickly. Identifying features used in non-fiction such as text boxes, captions, bullet points... should help the children to produce entertaining and interesting information about aspects of Victorian life.

Children will be reminded about e-safety and how to use search engines effectively as part of their learning.

## Numeracy:

Place Value- understanding the value of each digit in a number, ordering and comparing numbers, adding 1, 10 or 100 to any number, transferring number facts (6+4, 60+40, 600+400, 6000+4000, 0.6+0.4 etc), rounding. We will apply our place value knowledge by constructing a time line travelling back to the Victorians.

Using + - x ÷ to solve length, mass, money & capacity problems and to find missing numbers. Estimating and checking answers.

Problem solving using fractions and measures.

### **Hard Times**

This is a great theme for covering so many other curriculum areas. In **history** we will ask and answer questions about Queen Victoria and use a range of sources to compare and contrast various aspects of life, including school and transport. Using maps, atlases and globes will enable us to use our **geographical** skills to identify the countries in the British Empire. We will be linking our **science** with **art** by exploring light and shadows and creating silhouettes. By using watercolours and pastels we will explore ways of creating portraits. Observing the detail and pattern in William Morris designs will help us produce our own prints. We will use **ICT** to create symmetrical patterns and experiment with manipulating design and colour, as well as using search engines to locate and retrieve information about the Victorians.

Comparing a Victorian diet to ours will also require our **scientific** skills as we consider the importance of a balanced diet with a healthy lifestyle and the impact on our hair, skin and teeth.

Later in the term we will **design** and create samplers so if any parents feel able to volunteer their skills please get your thimbles ready!

For **R.E and PSHE** we will be reading and enacting stories about working well together and considering the **values** of respect and co-operation.

### **Supporting your child's learning at home**

Please continue to read with your child and share books and magazines together, even if your child is a fluent reader as it provides opportunities to check pronunciation, challenge the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary, identify punctuation marks, focus on literary devices or just for fun together.

Family life is often busy but playing games like Yahtzee, Uno or Tri-Ominos is usually an enjoyable way of practising some addition together. There are many websites that encourage recall of times tables and other maths skills ([www.mathszone.co.uk](http://www.mathszone.co.uk) and [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk)). All children will be provided with a mathematics user name and password.

Homework will be provided regularly in the form of creative learning logs and linked to learning in school.

### **P.E.**

The Drey will have P.E sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon with Mr Canning. Please make sure their kit is in school and is named. Currently, Y4 are swimming on Friday afternoons. You will be informed when Y3 start.

### **And finally...**

I have really enjoyed meeting your fantastic children and getting to know them, but please feel free to come and ask me questions or discuss any anxieties with me. I will do my very best to help.

Mrs Cooper.