

# THE DEN CLASS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to Culworth Primary Academy. I hope you all had a lovely summer break and have now settled back into your school routines. We have an exciting term planned which I am really looking forward to.

Our topic this term is '**Hard Times**' which includes how life was difficult for some people during the Victorian period. Most subjects and skills will be taught through this topic so that each lesson has a purpose and is meaningful in a context. Please do not hesitate to come in and see me if you have any questions or can offer any expertise.

Miss White

## Literacy

In Literacy we will be looking at various stories that describe life in the Victorian times e.g. 'Oliver Twist' and 'Street Child'. In our lessons we will look at classic fiction and writing in the style of significant authors. We will be learning about the features of instructions and then writing our own. Some of the books we will look at are examples of explanations which we will use to structure our own writing. The children will use their research skills to find out information on Queen Victoria using fact books and we will find out how to read, write and recite classic poetry.

### Reading

From 8.45am – 9.00am there is an opportunity to come into the classroom and share a book with your children. Please remind your children to be considerate when entering the classroom as it should be a calm and peaceful atmosphere for those reading quietly. There will be an opportunity for your children to read to an adult at school as often as possible, however it is also important that they also read at home at least once a week. Please sign their homework book when you have heard them read and encourage them to discuss their own feelings/responses to the books they have read.

### Grammar

This term we will be focusing on connecting clauses, punctuating direct speech, using possessive apostrophes and always using the correct tense.

### Spelling

The children will be tested every week on their spellings which follow particular spelling rules or patterns.

## Numeracy

This term we will be covering:

- Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers from 10,000 and beyond.
- Understanding and writing numbers written as Roman numerals.
- Rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 etc.
- Working with negative numbers within a context.
- Mental addition and subtraction.
- Multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 including decimal numbers.
- Solving number and practical problems.
- Adding and subtracting using formal written methods.
- Calculating fractions and their decimal equivalents.
- Ordering and comparing, equivalent fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions.
- Solving multi-step problems.

Please help your child to learn their times tables up to 12x12 at home.

## **Science**

In Science, the children will be investigating microorganisms which feed, grow and reproduce and will discover that they can be harmful or beneficial. They will use scientific ideas to explain some causes of illness and decay and relate what they know back to the Victorians. The children will re-inforce their knowledge of their personal health, including teeth and eating and how it relates to their diet. This will encourage predictions about the health of street children in the Victorian era.

## **P.E.**

This term we will be having P.E. on a Tuesday afternoon with Mr. Canning. Every Thursday afternoon, all of KS2 have a sports session with the children from Boddington. Please note, we will be going outside in most weathers. They should have outdoor clothing including jumpers, tracksuit bottoms and trainers. We will also be having swimming lessons every Friday afternoon up until half term.

## **History / Geography**

We are looking back in time exploring Queen Victoria's life and the events that took place during her reign. As a class we will compare life in Victorian London and discover what life was like in a workhouse. We will be finding out about famous Victorian inventors and how the industrial revolution impacted on the lives of the poor. The children will need to know about the dangers of working in coal mines and how cruel life could be for climbing boys.

## **I.C.T.**

We will be talking about the ways we can protect ourselves and our friends online. It is important that we understand that anything we post online can be seen by others and that we can comment positively and respectfully online. We will use a variety of tools to create a program, recognise an error in a program and debug it. Also, we will be discussing the reliability of information we read on the World Wide Web.

## **Art / D.T.**

The children will be looking at Victorian silhouettes and drawing their own to create a whole street scene. They will be learning about different shading techniques and the effects they produce. The artist we will be focusing on is William Morris.

## **R.E. / P.S.H.C.E.**

Our focus is on people in the Victorian times who tried to improve the lives of others. We will learn about Dr. Barnardo and his charity. Towards the end of the term we will start thinking about bible stories related to the Christmas period and how the Victorians celebrated Christmas.

## **Homework**

The children have a homework task once a week this will be given out on a Friday to be handed in the following Wednesday. The children can present their work in a way which interests them; this can include work on the computer, drawings, photographs or 3D models. Please let me know if it was completed independently.

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

Here are some suggested activities that you can do:

- Read a range of stories written by Charles Dickens and discuss his style of writing.
- Log onto 'Mathletics' but allow them to work independently and make mistakes from which they can learn from.
- Make a model of a Victorian house and design each room using Victorian patterns.
- Research some famous Victorian inventors and find out what they invented.
- Watch history documentaries on Queen Victoria or what life was like for the poor in the Victorian era.
- Visit London and see how many things you can find relating to Queen Victoria e.g. her statue.
- Try cooking some Victorian recipes.