

Friday 6th January 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and happy holiday. I would like to begin by thanking you for all of the cards, gifts and good wishes.

We are excited to jump into our new topic "Where in the World?" this term. This will be largely Geography based with a focus on the United Kingdom, Europe and South America. It will also incorporate map reading skills using six figure grid references, positioning of places in relation to the equator, hemispheres and the tropics, human and physical characteristics of places, topographical features and land use patterns.

In Literacy, we will be reading the text "Kensuke's Kingdom" by Michael Morpurgo. In reading sessions, we will be exploring words in the meaning of context, explaining how language is used to help the reader visualise, develop reasoned justifications for our opinions, explaining our understanding of what we have read using text based evidence, studying author's technique, sharing our own views and challenging the views of others, identifying themes, explaining implied meaning and understanding how writers can influence us. It would be very helpful if you could purchase a copy of Kensuke's Kingdom in order for your child to read along during lessons. In writing, We will be focussing on balanced arguments, using dictionary skills to advance our descriptive language and vocabulary knowledge, writing from differing perspectives and writing character descriptions. In spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons, we will continue to learn spelling rules and patterns including prefixes and suffixes, synonyms and antonyms, understand and use a wider range of punctuation, and identify common grammatical features, including clauses.

In Maths, we will be covering the topics of fractions, decimals, percentages and equivalency with a focus on calculation. We will also develop our understanding of using these skills in the context of word problems. We will continue to work on times table facts, with an emphasis on speed recall and accuracy. In the second half of the term, we will focus on measurement including, converting between different units such as meters and kilometres. In addition to this, we will be calculating perimeter and area of regular and irregular shapes, volume and capacity of 3D shapes and solving problems converting between units of time.

In Science, we will be studying living things in their habitats, we will learn about the life of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. We will

also learn about the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

RE will continue to follow the Diocesan scheme, Learning and Growing as the People of God. We will be studying parables and sayings of Jesus. We will also be covering the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders, as well as Lent and Holy Week. The children who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in March will be prepared for this on a Monday afternoon, in addition to the RE curriculum.

PE will continue to be supported by Mr Mawn, who is our PE mentor. We will focus on Gymnastics including partner balancing. The second session each week will continue to be dance and movement. In the second half of the term, we will be focussing on orienteering, bringing to life our map skills, as well as cross country running and building stamina. Children will need PE kit (suitable for indoor and outdoor lessons) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The school tracksuit is available to purchase from the school office. Swimming will continue to be on a Monday afternoon. The children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will not be swimming this term. The children who are not to be confirmed will swim up until Easter. Please ensure that your child has a swimming kit including a hat. If your child is not taking part in a PE or swimming lesson for a medical reason, please let us know in writing. We would ask that you encourage your child to take part if they are able as it is an important part of the curriculum.

Art, Music, Design Technology, Computing, PSHÉ and French will all form part of our Creative Curriculum topic. There is a map attached so you can see how they all fit in.

Homework will continue to be set in accordance with the timetable below;

Given out	Subject	Due in
Monday	Reading	Ongoing
Tuesday	Class Homework	Thursday
Wednesday	Reading/Easimaths	Ongoing
Thursday	Literacy	Monday
Friday	Maths	Monday

Your child should be spending no longer than 30 minutes each evening on homework. If they are unable to complete the task in this time please write a note in their homework book to say they have worked for 30 minutes, and then allow them to stop.

Important dates:

Friday, 13th/Monday, 16th January (A.M.) - Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools

Tuesday, 17th January at 9:30am - Upper Key Stage Two Mass (in Church)

Friday, 10th February (P.M.) - Junior Citizen

Friday, 24th March at 9:00am - Class Assembly

If you have any questions about the curriculum or wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact me. I very much appreciate all you do to support and encourage your children.

Kind regards

Miss L. Grant