

Fisherman Class Spring Term Letter

Dear parents/guardians

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. We have a very exciting term ahead in Fisherman Class. In Spring 1, our overarching topic will be 'Explorers', and we will be going on our own exciting adventure to Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre. The details of this trip are to follow shortly.

Please see below the details of our curriculum this term.

History: Significant Explorers

In this unit, children explore why some people are considered to be significant before going on to learn about some significant explorers. Children learn about the explorations of Ibn Battuta, an explorer who lived around 700 years ago and about Matthew Henson, a famous polar explorer who may have been the first man to step foot on the North Pole. They compare Matthew Henson's polar exploration to a much more recent exploration by Felicity Aston, the first person to walk across Antarctica alone on skis using her own power. The lesson about Neil Armstrong, the space explorer, looks, not only at his achievements, but asks the children to explore if it is right that Neil Armstrong should be remembered more than the others involved in the Apollo 11 mission. Finally, the children investigate how we remember significant people and how values may change over time in relation to this.

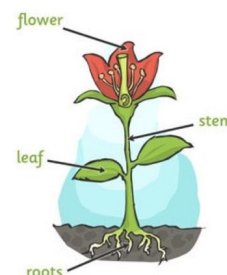


Geography: Sensational Safari

This unit will teach children about the geography of Kenya through focusing on the main human and physical features of the country. Children will learn about the key geographical features of the country including Kenyan wildlife, landscapes and culture. Children will learn about the similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK along with continuing to develop their geographical skills through a variety of fun and interactive activities.

Science: Plants then Materials

This half term, we will be studying Plants (light and dark), during which children will build on their learning last year to expand their knowledge of the parts of a plant and what plants need to grow. They will then plan and conduct their own investigation to observe whether plants thrive in a light or dark environment. Next half term we will be studying Materials. In this unit, the children will learn to identify different materials and their properties.



PE

As part of our BGN partnership, all children in Fisherman Class will be taking part in a multi-skills event at BGN this term. Our school sports leaders in years 5 and 6 will helping to lead the event and coach our younger children in a given discipline. Our PE day continues to be a Thursday afternoon with Mr Lines—please ensure your child has their PE kit in school each week. This term the children will be covering Football FUNdamentals and Kwik Cricket. We will also continue to learn dance on a Friday afternoon.



Music

This term we will be continuing with our Charanga music by learning to sing and play the song *I Wanna Play in a Band*. Next term we will be continuing with our Safari and animals theme by learning *Zootime*.





Art: Portraits

This Portraits unit will teach the children about portraits, and use of different materials and techniques when making their own. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the work of Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol, and create artwork inspired by them.

DT: Dips and Dippers

This Dips and Dippers unit will teach the children about good food hygiene rules and using kitchen equipment to prepare food safely. Children will apply these skills when making and evaluating a healthy dip and dippers. The unit develops children's understanding of the eatwell plate and explains the importance of eating a healthy and varied diet.



RE: Books, Thanksgiving and Opportunities

Catholic children in Year 2 will be starting their preparations for First Holy Communion this term. Letters have been sent home separately about this; if you think you should have received one and have not then please do come and speak to me. In our first RE unit, 'Books' children will learn about the different books that we might use at school and at home. We will then learn more about the books used in Church by the parish family and acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above. Later in the term we will learn about Thanksgiving and Opportunities.

Homework

We are delighted to be continuing with the reading challenge this year. The challenge offers an incentive for children to read at home daily by rewarding them with prizes and certificates at each milestone they reach. Children have opportunities to win prizes and collect house points to earn an extra reward for their house at the end of the year. Please support your child by encouraging them to read daily at home and tick off their progress in the Reading Challenge Passport. All children in years 1 and 2 have been given a new reading book this week to share at home. Children in Reception will be given reading books towards the end of this half term, but they can still join in the Reading Challenge by listening to a story at home.

Children in years 1 and 2 will be given spellings to learn at home weekly. Spelling tests will be conducted on a Thursday and new spellings given.

Children in year 2 will be given a weekly maths or English homework sheet to complete. These will be given out on a Thursday and must be handed in the following Thursday.



All children are invited to complete a small project around one of the following headings:

Reception: The Seasons

Years 1 and 2: Explorers **OR** Plants

The projects should be handed in the first week after half term, the week commencing Monday 26th February. The children can present their learning in whichever way they choose – for example, a poster/picture, a model, a PowerPoint or just sharing 3 facts that they have learnt. They should not be onerous or take too long to complete. I hope you enjoy sharing the task with your children as a way to discuss what they are learning about at school.

Read Write Inc Phonics

Most children in Fisherman Class will have daily phonic sessions to teach them key skills for reading and writing. They will bring home a phonic sound book (Reception) or reading book (Year One and Two) every day so that they can share their learning with you. The sound book will be dated to indicate which sound has been taught in school that day. Please ensure that the sound books are kept in your child's book bag when not in use as they will be used in school regularly. Please date and comment in your child's school planner when they have shared their new sound with you or if they have read to you.



Snack and Milk



All children in Fisherman Class are provided with a healthy snack each day that is enjoyed in the morning with a story. If your child does not like the fruit that is offered they are welcome to bring a healthy alternative. Please note that crisps, chocolate sweets and biscuits will not be permitted. Children are also offered milk until the turn 5 for free. Once your child has turned 5, they can still have milk at snack but it must be paid for by the parents at a subsidised rate. Please see the attached letter from Cool Milk for more information about how you can pay for your child's school milk should you wish to.

Tapestry

Please continue to check your child's Tapestry learning journey. We post regular updates with pictures and a brief report of what your child has been doing in school. You are also able to use the platform to share your child's home achievements with us. If you have any questions about this or need any support in accessing the journal, please do let me know.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Mrs Vale and Mrs Morgan

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