

Welcome to Spring Term 2024 !

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to all parents, carers and children!
It is great to be back and we have some exciting learning planned for the Spring term.

We will begin our English with a book called "Flotsam", a wordless picture book which imagines sharing the magic of discovering new experiences and new worlds. We will use the book to explore how different viewpoints impact the way a story is told. This will lead to the telling and writing of a story of Flotsam from another child's point of view.

Next half term, our book is "Where my wellies take me" by Michael and Clare Morpurgo. This highly-illustrated book, presented as a child's scrapbook, is a collection of 40 poems, celebrating childhood, exploration and discovery. We will use it to inspire writing in detail about a local walk.

In maths we will continue to follow the White Rose scheme of work. The work is organised into themes. Each theme will be followed for two or three-weeks before we move onto the next one. This term starts with a unit on multiplication and division, introducing long multiplication and short division using the bus stop method. Following this, we will look at fractions and then decimals. Please feel free to ask me about any of the methods we use if you would like to know more.

In science, we have a fascinating chemistry topic ahead of us. We will be looking at materials and their properties and will start this by exploring changes in different materials, focusing on mixtures, different ways to separate mixtures, and reversible and irreversible changes.

Geography this term will be about where our 'stuff' comes from. We will learn about the wider world and why things grow in certain places. We will consider trade and how things are transported, and consider the meaning and value of sustainability.

Following on from the Anglo-Saxons, we now come to the Vikings. In this unit, we will consider who the Vikings were and why they left their homes to settle in Britain. We will also study Lindisfarne and learn about King Alfred - Great or not?

In PSHE, we will consider what it means to live in the 'Wider World'. We will discuss ways that we impact the environment and the roles of different media types. Finally, we will discuss our career aspirations and choices.

In music, we will explore old school hip hop in the song 'The Fresh Prince of Belair'. This will help inspire our singing, performing and composing.

Our Art lessons will allow the children to explore how artists use a variety of media to capture the spirit of a place. We will introduce one-point perspective in landscape paintings linked to the great English artist, David Hockney.

Our RE unit this half term focuses on Hinduism. In particular, we will be thinking about why Hindus try to be good. Next half term, we will study the Christian view of salvation and what Christians believe Jesus did to save people.

PE will be on a Monday and Tuesday during the first half term and will be focused on orienteering Monday and Dance and Movement on Tuesday.

We encourage the children to do some work at home to support their learning. The most important things to do at home are to read and to practise times tables and spellings. I recommend that children spend a few minutes every weekday writing down their spellings for that week and the times table they are focussing on. It would also help if you could talk with them about how to use the spelling words in a sentence. I will set homework every Friday to be handed in by the following Wednesday. The children will be given new spellings each Friday and tested on the next Friday. If you find homework is causing any problems, please let me know perhaps by adding a note in their homework diary.

As ever, if you have any questions or if your child is struggling with any aspect of school life, please feel free to get in touch via an email to the office or in person - I am usually available in class at the end of the school day.

Thank you for all your support at home.

Mr Sands