

Key Stage 2 Newsletter

General

We would like to welcome all children back after the holiday. We have already taken part in an exciting multicultural week and enjoyed the PTFA firework and we have lots more exciting things coming up this term including the Christmas productions, pantomimes, the Rock Steady concert and of course, Christmas Dinner!

English

In Giraffe class we have been studying the narrative poem, The Highwayman and we will be learning how to write a balanced discussion text and looking at Letters to Father Christmas - a book by J R R Tolkien. We will also continue working hard on our comprehension, grammar and spelling skills.

In Tiger class we have been studying Bling, a modern retelling of the King Midas myth by Jon Blake to focus on how a dilemma can be the driving force of a narrative. The children will compose an ending to the story through writing a diary entry from the main character's point of view. They will then move on to investigate the difference between a first person recount, such as a diary, and a newspaper report of the same event before composing their own newspaper article for a younger audience.

In Meerkat class we are learning about explanation texts. We have looked at the features of explanation texts and have begun writing our own based on our Science topics. In our grammar and punctuation lessons we have learnt what determiners are and will also be practising how to use apostrophes.

In Dolphin class we are learning about fairy tales. We will focus on the story of Little Red Riding Hood and children will build up to creating an alternative version of this classic tale. We have already carried out lots of exciting drama involving the story! In our grammar lessons we are looking at using speech marks and paragraphs.

Maths

In Giraffe class we have been working on converting units of measurement and will be learning about fractions (equivalence and finding fractions of quantities) and continuing to work on place value and the four operations. We will be developing our arithmetic skills and solving problems linked to the concepts covered.

Tiger class have been working on multiplication and division. This includes learning how to find factors and multiples, and square and cubed numbers. We will continue to apply what we have learnt in our problem solving and reasoning tasks in order to develop deeper learning. It is imperative that the children continue to learn their times tables as this is prerequisite for success in this area of study.

Meerkat class started the term with a unit of work on length, focusing on finding the perimeter of shapes. We have now moved on to multiplication and division, starting with mental methods and moving on to learning short multiplication and division methods. We are applying the skills we are learning to solving a range of problems.

In Dolphin class we began the term learning about how to represent numbers in different ways including using physical resources, writing numbers as words and partitioning them. We are now studying 3D shapes with a particular focus on prisms and we will learn about angles, lines and position, movement and direction next week.

For all of Key stage 2 work on times tables and the related division facts will be continuing this term. Children should practice these regularly to become fluent and be able to recall them confidently. Children shall have a weekly times tables test on a Monday morning where they will aim to meet their current target.

Creative Curriculum

In Giraffe class we are continuing to learn about the Victorians. We will study the British empire, inventions, the factories and workhouses, crime and punishment, Victorian schools and how the Victorians celebrated Christmas.

Tiger class will continue to learn about the Tudors. We will investigate what life was like for Tudor Children, compare our town today, to how it might have looked in Tudor times and undertake various arts and design activities linked to the topic.

In Meerkat class we have started a new topic on the Vikings. The children will be learning who the Vikings were and where they came from; why and how they invaded Britain; what their daily lives were like and what we can learn about the Vikings from artefacts.

In Dolphin class we will continue to learn about the Ancient Egyptians. We are creating Tutankhamen death masks and learning about the importance of the River Nile to the Egyptian people.

P.E. days

Giraffe class usually have P.E. on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tiger class have P.E. lessons on a Thursday and Friday. However, this term they will be swimming on a Monday morning, which will replace the Friday lesson.

MeerKat class have P.E on a Monday and Friday

Dolphin class have P.E. on a Monday and Tuesday.

Please note that some PE sessions this term will be taken up by Christmas Play rehearsals. (For future reference, year 4 will be swimming during term 3 and year 3 during term 4).

Homework

Homework will be given out on a Wednesday to be handed in the following Monday.

Homework will usually consist of one piece of English and one piece of Maths although on occasion it may be related to other subjects. At the start of each seasonal term, the first two weeks' homework will continue to be a research project related to the creative curriculum. It is also expected that children will practise their times tables and spellings for a weekly test.

Reminders

All children must have a fully labelled P.E. kit at school at all times.

Children also need their own pen, pencil, glue stick and art apron which also need to be kept in school at all times.

In addition, as there is no water fountain in the juniors, all children need their own water bottle.

Children will bring their reading books home every day with the expectation that they will read at home with an adult if required. Children need their books in school every day as daily silent reading takes place in the classroom.

This year we will continue to award Class Captains every Friday in our Celebration Assembly. Children need to show a positive attitude to learning and kindness to others throughout the week to be awarded the honour of being Class Captain.

Thank you.