

Key Stage 2 Newsletter

General

We would like to welcome all children back after the holidays and hope that a good Christmas and New Year was had by all.

English

In Giraffe class we have started revising the non-fiction genres of writing using a programme called SPOOCS. We will be writing recounts, instructions, explanations, non-chronological reports and balanced arguments. We will also be continuing to develop our comprehension skills and revising word classes, punctuation and Grammar.

This term in Tiger class, we will be exploring newspaper reports and poems written by Pie Corbett and Andrew Fusek. In poetry, we will study how the authors use strong imagery, powerful personification and rich vocabulary to make their writing more interesting. The children will be required to plan, write and evaluate their own pieces in similar styles. We will continue to revise our grammar, punctuation and spelling and learn interesting vocabulary in order to improve our writing.

In Meerkat class we have started the term with a unit of work on poetry, exploring and writing a range of different types of poems on the theme of winter. After this, we will be spending the remainder of the term studying information texts. We will be researching facts about the rainforests and will be using our findings to make our own information texts on rainforests.

In Dolphin class we have started the term by looking at stories with familiar settings. We are reading 'The Dragon Machine' in class and will be debating whether dragons are real! We will end the term by looking at information texts with a focus on animals. The children will learn persuasive language and presentation techniques.

Maths

In Giraffe class, we will be learning about angles number and place value, focussing on numbers to 10 000 000; fractions and decimals; algebra and the properties of shape, especially quadrilaterals.

Tiger class will be learning how to do division using mental and formal strategies and their application in solving everyday problems. We will then learn how to read information presented in tables and graphs and how to interpret their meanings. The children will need to continue to learn their times tables in preparation for their weekly tests and to help with their overall ability to solve multiplication and division problems successfully.

In Meerkat class, we have started the term with a unit on fractions. We will learn how to find equivalent fractions, how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator and we will practise counting in hundredths. We will then move on to learning about decimals. As always, we will be applying the skills we are learning to solve a range of problems.

In Dolphin class, we have started the term with a unit on multiplication. After learning the 3, 4 and 8 times tables in terms 1 and 2, the children will be introduced to the 6 times tables. We will move on to multiplying 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers, using resources and diagrams. Then, we will focus on division techniques and being able to scale amounts up and down.

For all of Key stage 2, work on times tables and the related division facts will be continuing this term. The children should continue to practice these regularly to become fluent and be able to recall them confidently.

Creative Curriculum

In Giraffe class we are learning about the Stone Age, developing our knowledge and understanding of life during this period through research, outdoor learning and art.

Tiger class will be learning about the Mayas this term. The children will be given the opportunity to explore a range of areas including who the Mayas were, how their civilisation developed overtime and their religious beliefs and practices. In line with our cross- curricular approach, they will also undertake a range of art and design activities linked to the topic.

Meerkat class will be learning all about the rainforests including where in the world they are found, the structure of rainforests and what animals live there.

Dolphin Class will learn about The Romans during terms 3 and 4. We will spend term 3 learning about the location of Rome, where and how the Romans conquered countries surrounding the Mediterranean and what they built.

P.E. days

This term Meerkat class will be swimming on a Monday morning.

Giraffe class have P.E. on a Wednesday and Friday.

Tiger class have P.E. lessons on a Thursday and Friday.

Meerkat class have their second P.E. lesson on a Wednesday.

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

(For future reference, year 3 will be swimming during term 4).

Homework

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

Homework will usually consist of a times tables and a spelling activity. At the start of each new 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 continue to practise their year groups' times' tables and spellings for the termly test.

Reminders

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

Children also need their own blue pen (no biros or equivalent please), 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 (if your child is a competent reader, please discuss their book with them). Children need their books in school every day as daily silent reading takes place in the classroom.

Thank you.