

Key Stage 2 Newsletter

General

We would like to welcome all children back after the holiday. We hope this term is an exciting and productive one, despite the lockdown, and we are looking forward to the run up to Christmas.

English

In Giraffe class we will be studying the narrative poem, The Highwayman, 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 will be studying Bling, a modern retelling of the King Midas myth by Jon Blake. We will investigate 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 will be studying the book 'The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey'. The children will write character and setting descriptions and will then compare the book to a film adaptation. Later in the term we will be focusing on the animation 'Cracking Contraptions' and will write our own explanation texts to explain how a machine might work.

In Dolphin class we are learning about adventure stories. We have focused on the story of 'The Pirate Cruncher' and the children will build up to create an adventure story of their own. Later in the term, we will study performance poetry with a pirate theme. We will learn poems by heart and add actions and expression to create a performance.

Maths

In Giraffe class we will be 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 a prerequisite for success in this area of study.

Meerkat class have started the term with a unit of work on 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 will then study 3D shapes with a particular focus on prisms. Then we will learn about right angles and various lines (parallel, perpendicular, horizontal and vertical).

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, in preparation for a termly times tables test.

Creative Curriculum

In Giraffe class we are continuing to learn about the Victorians. We will study the British Empire; the Navvies who built the railways; Victorian schools and how they differed from modern schools; Victorian toys 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 Ancient Egypt. We are continuing to create Egyptian inspired art and will be learning about the importance of the River Nile to the Egyptian people. The children will learn about the important Gods and Goddesses and we will finish the term with some map work on Africa.

P.E. days

Giraffe class have P.E. on Mondays and Fridays.

Tiger class have P.E. lessons on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Meerkat Class have P.E. lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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

Please make sure the children are inappropriate PE kit for the weather this term and in appropriate colours - plain black, burgundy or grey.

Homework

Homework will be sent out by email or posted on Seesaw on a Monday and will need to be uploaded to Seesaw by the following Monday. Homework will usually consist of a times tables and a spelling activity. At the start of terms 1, 3 and 5, 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 wear their P.E. kit to school on their designated PE day.

Children also need to bring in everyday their own blue pen (no biros or equivalent please), green pen (this can be a biro), pencil, glue stick, ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, eraser and 12 colouring pencils.

All children need to bring in their own water bottle (no fizzy drinks or juices).

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.