

Year 4 Spring Newsletter 2019

Welcome back to the Spring term!

This term we will be learning lots of new and exciting things a sample of which is highlighted below. In particular we are excited about getting out and about in the local area to study habitats as part of our Spring Science topic as well as comparing them to habitats in different parts of the world.

We will also be learning about rivers: their features and why they are important, particularly our local rivers the Thames and River Lea. In Art & Design we will be using William Morris as inspiration for our own pattern designs and print-making, including a workshop visit to the William Morris Gallery itself. Linked to this will be a unit exploring the work of Henry Rousseau.

Finally we will be learning about Sikh places of worship and why the figure of Guru Nanak is so important, as well as understanding the significance of some important Sikh rituals.

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would like to continue our excellent home/school relationships, and aim to provide high-quality information, clear communication and an 'open-door' policy.



Literacy

As part of cross-curricular learning, the topic this term is Rainforests They will be reading The Great Kapok Tree and The Vanishing Rainforest. The children will be looking at information and explanation text texts about rainforests, as well as persuasive and complaint letters, diaries. In addition, the children will learn different poetic devices such as metaphors, similes and repetition to compose their own poems inspired by rainforests.

Our Shared Reading text will be Varjak Paw by SF Said.

Next half term, to coincide with Book Week, Coppermill will be celebrating the plays of William Shakespeare. In particular, Supernova class will be explore the play, The Tempest.

In addition, children will be taught grammar as part of their literacy lessons, together with spelling strategies – a test will conducted weekly.

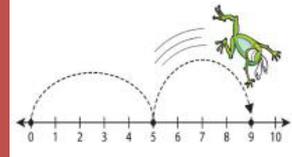
Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their literacy skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>



Mathematics



We will be working very hard to ensure children are confident in completing questions using the four operations (+ - x ÷) , , as well as units of measure for time, length/distance and mass.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their maths skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

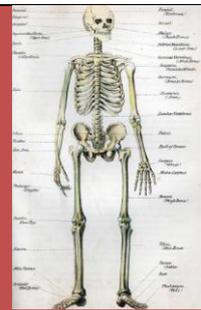
<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>



Science



In science we will be studying fauna and flora in our local habitats and classifying them. Children will then compare this to animals that live in different habitats. We will learn how animals have adapted to live in these habitats. Our next half term our topic will be Life Cycles (plants).

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their science skills:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/variation/read/3/

<http://www.buildyourwildself.com/http://switchzoo.com/zoo.htm>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/plant_animal_habitats/read/1/



Humanities



As part of Geography unit children will learn about biomes around the world, where rainforests are likely to be found and what animals and plants live there. We will explore why rainforests are so important and what we can do to protect them. Our next half term our topic will be Rivers (Why is the River Thames so important?)

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to learn more about their topic:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/habitats>

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/kids/rainforest-stories>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/rainforest-habitats>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/?s=rainforests>



Computing

In addition to using ICT to research projects and present their work across all subjects, our term topic will be Digital Music. We will use a variety of digital platforms to create music and then use code to create our own music game.

Useful Sites

www.lgfl.net

www.thinkuknow.org

www.internetmatters.org

www.scratch.mit.edu



Art/Design & Technology

We will be looking at the art of William Morris and Henri Rousseau. Both artists were heavily interested by nature. Children will compare the work of these artists and explore the themes in their bodies of work.

As part of this unit, Supernova class will be attending a workshop at the William Morris Gallery where they will investigate the use repeated patterns synonymous with Morris' work.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their artistic skills:

<http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/index.html>

<http://www.disney.co.uk/disney-junior/art-attack/>



R.E.

This term in RE we will be looking at worship within Sikhism. We will explore the basic Sikh beliefs and studies, some of the ways in which this is reflected in Sikh worship and celebrations at home and in the Gurdwara. Pupils will have the opportunity to find out about key symbols (including the 5Ks, which represent the Sikh faith), Gurus and important celebrations.

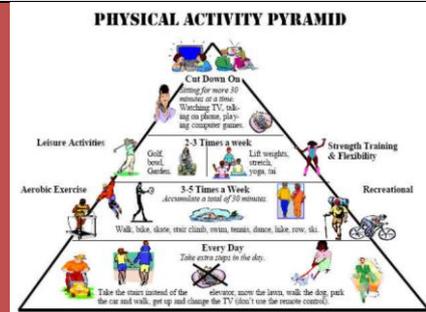
Here are some useful website to help your children learn more about Sikhism :

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/sikhism.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zsjpyrd/resources/1>



P.E.



This term we will be covering indoor competitive team sports like Dodgeball and Benchball. Children will learn catching, throwing and aiming skills, together with developing teamwork strategies.

Next half term, children will be attending Swimming lessons in the afternoon for two weeks.

Skills covered include:

Float and move in the pool with and without aid

Pace themselves in floating and swimming challenges

Swim aided and unaided

Recognise arm and leg actions

Using a range of strokes



Home Learning

Homework will be handed out each Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Your child will receive:

- Weekly Maths homework will consist of one 'Mastery' or Greater Depth question based on the topic they have covered in class. We expect children to be able to demonstrate an understanding of the topic in order to solve a problem, explaining their reasoning. In addition, the children will practise their multiplication tables each day.
- Weekly spellings to be tested in class. Spelling lists will be given out on Friday.
- Daily reading at their ability level to be recorded in their Reading Record books. By Year 3 many pupils will enjoy reading by themselves. However it is important that children still sometimes read out loud to their parents and discuss the storyline, as this is the best way of checking that children understand what they are reading and that they are pronouncing words correctly. Children in Supernova class will have books allocated to them using Bug Club. In addition, children will be encouraged to take home hard copy books from our library. Our expectation is that all children should read for at least 20 minutes every day.
- The half-termly Home Learning Projects is an excellent opportunity for children to choose their own learning styles. It gives children the chance to explore and engage with the topic in their own time. It will also give them the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of these topics and share their learning with their peers.
- Spring term Home Learning project is: Habitats



General notices/requests

Queries, worries or questions

If something is worrying you or if you have a question and find it difficult to come to see us in person, please feel free to telephone us via the school office or to pop in at the end of the day. We value regular contact with our families and find that it has a very positive impact.

Thank you for all your support. We look forward to an exciting term with your children!

Georgina Townsend