

Newsletter

Botswana Class September 2019

Dear Parents

This newsletter is a general overview of the topics we will cover this half term.



Our topics: Botswana

This half term we will be learning about our class country, Botswana. We will label a world map with the seven continents and five oceans. We will find Botswana and its neighbouring countries on a map of Africa. We will be thinking about the different sorts of landscape the animals which live in Botswana's wildlife reserves and the swamps of the Okevango Delta. We will find out about the culture of its people: those that live in the cities and the towns and the San Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert. We will learn to say some words in Setswana and we will be making African masks, necklaces, paintings, weavings and collages. We will be cooking and eating some traditional Botswana food and singing and dancing to African music.

In **Science** we shall also be learning about animals including humans: what animals need to stay alive, what we need to do to keep healthy and how animals grow and change. We will learn the names of some body parts and focus particularly on our human senses and will carry out investigations using our senses.



In **Literacy** we will be reading stories set in Africa, beginning with the Handa stories by Eileen Browne, an African counting story and an old Botswana folk tale. We will be reading and following instructions and learning about the features of instructions and how to write a set of simple instructions. We will be exploring poetry about our senses and we will learn and recite simple poems for the class. Our ongoing work in phonics will take place in Read Write Inc groups.

In **Maths** We will be focusing on counting sets of objects: Y2 counting to 100, counting by grouping them in twos, fives and tens and Y1 will be counting groups of objects in ones to 30 and beyond. We will be reading and writing numbers as words, partitioning two-digit numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, describing and extending number sequences including odd and even numbers. We will also work on calculations focusing on addition and subtraction skills and using and applying these to real-life problems.

In **RE** we will be learning about Jewish festivals and celebrations including Hannukah, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur. We find out how these great festivals are celebrated and why they are important to Jews. As part of this we will be having a Passover meal.

Homework Thank you for your support with your child's reading, just ten to fifteen minutes reading a night really does make a huge difference to their progress. Year 2 children will be allowed to change their book as often as they can, after it has been read at home and the reading record has been signed by a parent. Reading for Year 1 is organised differently; Mrs Read will listen to the children read and change their books at the beginning of the week and will change their books again on Thursday. Repetition is very helpful to the children at this stage in reading development and it gives parents the opportunity to work on different aspects like retelling and comprehension. We would like the children to read at least three times a week and as an incentive the children will receive Castle points for regular reading.

Other homework like Maths and spelling will be sent home on Monday in homework folders. Some work can be completed in one session but spelling needs to be a little each night to help the children remember them. There are instructions on how to do this in the homework folder.

PE- Tuesday (Rugby) and Thursday (gymnastics) - they need a named PE kit with trainers for games please and warm PE trousers and sweatshirt for outdoor games. Girls who wear tights need a pair of socks in their PE kit. Please name all kit.

Botswana Class Worship – Wednesday the 9th of October at 9.15am in the hall.

Show and Tell – Anything the children wish to bring into school for show and tell must be linked to our topic work. This term our topic is Botswana so an African animal toy, a picture or information found in a book or on the internet and printed will be most welcome.

Many thanks

Mrs. Sutcliffe and Mrs Critchlow