

Mexico 1 & 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you all had a lovely relaxing Summer break. Thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts we received at the end of last term. The children have settled well into their new classes and have already started working together for some areas of the curriculum.

Curriculum

Art - Artist Study - Frida Kahlo. This unit of work explores the passionate and vibrant artworks of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. We will look in detail at some of her most famous artworks, exploring the thought provoking images to inspire their own self portraits and artwork.

RE - Muslim Festivals. In this unit of work we will find out about the 5 Pillars of Islam and how they underpin the lives of Muslims around the world. We will look at the features of a Mosque and how Muslims worship there before finding out about some of the important festivals and celebrations in the Islamic calendar.

PE - Swimming and NUFC. Key Stage 2 will be swimming every Friday, starting 13th September, until Christmas. When they are not in the pool they will be taking part in either a Dance Fit or Freestyle Gymnastics session, depending on which group they are in. If they have Dance Fit this half term, they will have Freestyle Gymnastics next half term and vice versa. You should have received a swimming letter already, please make sure you return the permission slip as soon as possible. Your child needs to come to school in their P.E kit on Friday mornings and have their swimming kit with them.

A NUFC Coach will be working with the children again this half term and will be teaching a variety of skills required to play competitive team games.

Music - Livin' on a Prayer. This is a six-week Unit of Work. All the learning is focused around one song: Livin' On A Prayer. The material presents an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc), singing and playing instruments are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise other classic rock songs.

French - All About Me. In this unit the children will be revising forms of greeting and learning simple words and phrases associated with feelings, times of the day and where they live through games and activities.

Maths - Place Value and Addition and Subtraction. We will be looking at the value of digits and how to represent numbers in a variety of different ways using apparatus before moving onto abstract concepts. We will be ordering, comparing and rounding numbers. Year 4 and 5 will also be working with negative numbers and Roman numerals. We will be looking at addition and subtraction using a variety of methods including bar modelling, part-part whole and concrete apparatus thereby applying the skills learnt in place value. The children will also be using the traditional method of column addition and subtraction.

Literacy - Non chronological reports. The children will develop their note taking skills in order to find out information about The Day of the Dead. They will revise the features of a non chronological report before writing their own report using the information they have researched. This will be followed by a narrative unit, focussing on character and setting descriptions.

Science - Year 5 - Earth and Space. The aim of this unit is to give children a basic overview of Earth and its place in our Solar System. They will be able to name the planets in the solar system and explain how the planets orbit the Sun. They will learn about the seasons and how night and day occur as well as making predictions about night and day in different places on Earth. They will also develop their ability to report and present findings from enquiries with support.

Year 3 - 4 - Animals Including Humans. The children will look at the digestive system and be able to explain the functions of the different parts of the digestive system. They will learn about the different types of human teeth and their functions and will compare these to animal teeth. They will also learn about oral hygiene and the importance of looking after their teeth. They will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producer, predator and prey.

PSHE - New Beginnings and Responsibilities. The children will see themselves as valued individuals within a community. They will explore feelings while learning shared models for calming down and problem solving.

Homework

As we are putting a greater emphasis on reading, spelling and times tables this year there will be no regular weekly homework given out. However, we will still ask children to complete projects linked to their topic if the topic lends itself to such work.

Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's homework. Please read with your child at home at least three times a week but ideally every night. Our emphasis in KS2 is to read and reread for fluency, expression and a deeper understanding as well as building a larger vocabulary. In Shared Reading sessions we use VIPERS questions to encourage the children to explore texts in depth. We have stuck a VIPERS sheet in the front of their reading records with examples of questions you can ask in order to help develop their comprehension skills. Could we also ask that you sign their reading records to show you have listened to them and discussed the text? Please ensure reading records are handed in on a Monday for us to update and sign.

Spellings

The children will continue to have spellings to learn each week. Only practising these spellings once a week will not ensure good consolidation or help them to remember them in the long term so we are asking that the children complete a spelling activity a minimum of 3 times a week. Spelling lists will be given out on a Tuesday and stuck into their new Homework book on the back of a page. On the front of the page there is room to complete the spelling activities. In the front of this book there is a spelling activity sheet with ideas of different ways in which to learn their spellings. Any spellings they get wrong in their spelling test will be recorded underneath the list so that they can continue to practise.

Times Tables

By the end of Lower KS2, Government expectations are that all children should have a good recall of their tables to 12 times. This includes a rapid recall of these times and division facts. We have found that the children who access Rock Star Times Tables regularly at school and at home are developing a much quicker and secure recall. Therefore, Maths homework in KS2 is to use Rock Stars. All children have a login and password which we will remind you of in case you have forgotten. As this is now a focussed part of their homework, we will be checking their progress on a regular basis through the Rock Stars website.

Class Worship

Our Class Worship will be on Wednesday 20th November at 9.15 - we look forward to seeing you there.

Punctuality

When the children come into school on a morning, they have tasks to complete such as completing unfinished work, doing corrections or intervention work. If your child is late they will miss a vital learning opportunity. Therefore we ask that your child arrives on time and is ready to begin their learning at 8:50 am.

Snacks If your child would like a snack please ensure that it is a healthy one (no sweets or chocolate biscuits) and that it is in their book bags or trays, not their packed lunch boxes.

Communication We will continue to send out class newsletters as well as school newsletters. Check the website for newsletters too. The P.F.A. have a board in the outdoor waiting area at the front of school. We still use Parent Mail to communicate also. If you need to talk to us, please arrange a time after school since the mornings can be very hectic.

Many Thanks

Nicola Foy and Heather Mortimer.