

St. David's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone and I hope that you and your families are all well and have had a lovely Summer. The children are settling well into St. David's class and new routines

Curriculum

English- This term we will start with a unit of work based on the Raymond Briggs book Jim and the Beanstalk. In this unit, we will read and retell the story. We will be using inverted commas to add speech punctuation to our writing and we will be planning and writing our own version of the story. We will also be looking at the features of letter writing before writing our own letter to the giant!

In Shared Reading, we will read the story of Jim and the Beanstalk before concentrating on short non-fiction texts with the aim of developing our comprehension skills.

Weekly spelling lists will continue to be available on the school website on a Monday. The children will receive their copy of the spellings in their Basic Skills lesson on a Tuesday and they will be tested on a Friday. Please make sure your child learns their spellings throughout the week, using the spelling sheet at the front of their homework book for ideas of activities they can do to help their learning.

We would also ask that you continue to hear your child read at home at least 3 times a week. There is a VIPERS sheet in the front of their reading record with ideas of questions to ask when you are listening to your child read - this will help develop their comprehension skills. When you have listened to your child read, please sign their reading record.

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 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.

We will continue to learn our times tables through the use of Rock Star Times Tables. This term Year 3 will concentrate on the 3 times table while Year 4 will be looking at the 6 times table. Please make sure your child goes on Rock Stars at least 3 times a week as part of their homework routine.

Science - This unit focuses on the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. In addition, they will extend their understanding of food chains to more complex chains and food webs.

RE - Hinduism - This term we will be locating where Hinduism was founded and explaining the main beliefs that Hindus share. We will find out that Hindus have more than one holy book and explaining what the main Hindu symbols mean or represent. We will also be looking at some of the main festivals in the Hindu calendar.

Art - Art Around the World - In this unit of work we will be looking at art from different countries. We will find out how the artwork is created and we will use different materials and techniques to create our own pieces of art based on our observations.

Topic - All Around the World - This unit of work allows children to take a closer look at where the countries of the world are located, and some of the ways geographers describe locations. Children will learn to locate and describe places using longitude and latitude, and find out about some of the important lines that delineate specific areas of the Earth - the Equator, the Hemispheres, the Poles and the Tropics. Finally, by looking more closely at the lines of longitude, children will develop their understanding of time zones.

PE - NUFC and Cricket - A NUFC Coach will be working with the children again this year on a Monday teaching a variety of skills required to play competitive team games. In addition to this, children will have a cricket session with a coach on a Friday.

Music - Pitch and Pulse and Metre

The children are going to be following 2 units from Oak Academy.

Through the unit on Pitch the children will learn what pitch is and find out about high and low sounds and they will create high and low sounds using objects.

Through the unit on Pulse and Metre the children will learn the difference between pulse and rhythm and will explore different numbers of beats in a bar and learn to recognise time signatures.

French - Ourselves - In this unit, the children will learn how to greet each other at different times of the day as well as how to introduce themselves to others. They will also learn words and phrases associated with feelings.

PSHE - Relationships - TEAM - In this unit, the children will learn about successful teamwork skills, being considerate to others in the team and how to positively resolve any conflicts that occur. They will also learn about their individual responsibilities towards teams they work in and how new starts, such as starting a new school year, may feel and how they can support each other in this.

Computers - Coding

Year 3 - the children will learn to understand what a flowchart is and how flowcharts are used in computer programming. They will also learn that there are different types of timers and be able to select the right type for purpose, how to use the repeat command, the importance of nesting and to design and create an interactive scene.

Year 4 - the children will begin to understand selection in computer programming, how an IF statement works, how to use co-ordinates in computer programming, use the 'repeat until' command, understand how an IF/ELSE statement works and create a playable game.

Homework

Your child will bring home a Homework book in which to do their spelling activities. It will be given out on a Monday, please return it on a Friday.

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. Please ensure your child arrives in school at the correct time each morning.

Snacks

If your child would like a snack please ensure that it is a healthy one (no sweets or chocolate biscuits). They have been asked to put all snacks in their tray every morning when they come into school so they do not need to go to their lunch boxes during playtime. Please also ensure your child has a water bottle in school - this needs to come into school on a Monday and will be sent home on a Friday.

Communication

We will continue to send out class newsletters as well as school newsletters. Check the website for newsletters too. We still use ParentMail to communicate also. If you need to talk to me, please ring the office to leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Many Thanks

Heather Mortimer.