

St. David's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year and we hope you have had a lovely Christmas.

Curriculum

Literacy - Stitch Head This is a humorous text full of gothic and gruesome descriptions. The unit allows the children to deepen their understanding of plot, character development and use of language. It also provides opportunities for a deeper analysis of author intent and viewpoint which feature strongly throughout the narrative. Children will have the opportunity to discuss and debate issues within the text, extend vocabulary through character analysis and description and identify and sequence key narrative features including the author's use of language and layout and its affect on the reader.

The children will have the opportunity to write character descriptions, to identify the difference between the first and third person and to identify the features of and write instructional texts.

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 - they need to complete 3 different activities in order to complete their spelling homework.

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. Reading records continue to be handed in on a Monday so that you have more time to read over the weekend. Homework books will still be handed in on a Friday.

Maths - Multiplication and Division We will look at multiplication and division 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 use arrays to represent multiplication and division facts and they will recall and use multiplication and division facts for the times tables they are learning. They will multiply and divide given numbers by 1 and 2 digits using formal written methods.

Science - States of Matter This 'States of Matter' unit will teach the children about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation before exploring the water cycle.

Art- Russian Art The children will be researching information about Faberge before concentrating on Faberge eggs. They will design and make their own decorated egg in the Faberge style. We will also be finding out about the history and traditions behind the Matryoshka or Russian Dolls. The children will design their own dolls using collage and then they will use pattern pieces to cut out and assemble a 3-D fabric doll.

Topic - Russia and Eastern Europe. In this unit the children will consolidate their learning about continents and the fact that continents are groups of countries. They will use atlases to identify some countries and capital cities in Europe. We will concentrate in particular on Russia, looking at the human and physical geography of this country. We will find out what the climate is like in different areas of the country.

PE - NUFC and Swimming. A NUFC Coach will continue to work with the children on a Monday. Please ensure they have warm clothes as we will be outside where possible. The children may also want to bring a change of shoes in case their trainers get wet or muddy during the lesson. As indicated in a letter before Christmas the children will be swimming on a Thursday afternoon. The children will need to come to school in their PE kit (long trousers, t-shirt, sweatshirt and trainers) and bring their swimming kit and towel with them in a bag. The children should also have no earrings in on PE days.

Music - Charanga 'Three Little Birds' In music the children will be listening to and appraising different pieces of music and learning to sing 'Three Little Birds'. They will also learn to accompany the song with musical instruments.

French - La Date In this unit we will be learning numbers to 30 and vocabulary associated with the date, such as months of the year and days of the week. The children will learn how to say and write their date of birth and how to ask others what their date of birth is.

RE - God, David and the Psalms In this unit we will be thinking about what values are important to us and we will try to connect Christian values and beliefs to events and teachings in the Bible. We will listen to Old Testament stories about David and think about how imagery in the psalms reflect Christian beliefs about the nature of God.

PSHE - Money Matters The children will be continuing their work learning about money; thinking about where money comes from (earning money), different ways to pay for things, lending and borrowing, deciding on priorities for spending and saving, keeping track of money and the impact of advertising.

Computing

Year 3 - Email In this unit, the children will learn about emails in a safe environment with controls in place. They will think about different ways to communicate and the rules of emailing safely. They will compose and send emails and learn how to add attachments.

Year 4 - Writing for different audiences In this unit, the children will learn that technology can be used to organise, reorganise, develop, and explore ideas, and that working with information in this way can aid understanding. It will also give the children opportunities to discuss their experiences of using ICT and how it is used in the wider world.

Many Thanks

Heather Mortimer and Tracey Critchlow