

Newsletter: Term 1 2021

We would like to welcome all students, parents and carers back to the first term of our new academic year. Despite the impact of the Covid pandemic on the previous academic year, the students have returned with excitement and a wonderful inquisitive nature that not only demonstrates their resilience but also their determination to access their own potential.

Staff changes include the appointment of Seb Harrison as Key Stage Manager, Ms. Cole as curriculum lead, Miss Gower as Blue Class tutor and Sophie Stevens fulfilling the role of Key Worker. We are all looking forward to the upcoming term and the exciting curriculum in store.



Topic - Our topic is 'A Child's View of the Home Front in WW2'. Our exciting start was a visitor (Seb!) sharing the uniform and equipment that an American soldier would have used during the Second World War. The children will be researching life for children in the Blitz, Dunkirk and the little ships, the Battle of Britain and morse code. Any artefacts or information from their family history is more than welcome.



Design and Technology - Our DT projects are linked to the topic of WW2. They will be finding out about Dunkirk so have already begun designing and making boats from paper and testing them to see if they float and move across water. They will also be designing and making tabletop games which children would have played in the 1940s,

Communication & Interaction - The children are working on recognising and understanding how they feel as well as knowing how to regulate their emotions. They will be working on speaking and listening skills, teambuilding, collaborating, sharing and being kind through specific timetabled lessons and off-site C&I activities. These skills are encouraged and taught in every lesson and interaction with the children.



English - The children began the term by creating and writing about a bottle character inspired by Benin artist Romuald Hazoumé. Many children have already chosen their work for our 'Proud Wall' display. They will be writing poems based on 'If I Were in Charge of the World' by Judith Viorst. Interesting ideas are expected! They will move onto the legend of George and the Dragon and use text and film to support writing effective, engaging narratives. Children are encouraged to create, edit and present their work by using a mixture of writing by hand and computer aided technology. All students read daily and practise discrete English skills every morning (phonics, grammar, handwriting).

Maths - Our topics are place value, addition and subtraction, and money. Mental maths, problem solving and reasoning work is built into maths lessons, often developed through playing games and using maths equipment. All pupils access daily maths skills practice for ten minutes after lunch.

Science - They will be focusing on colour, looking at the different colour groups and which colours you need to mix to make new colours. They will be creating colour wheels from natural objects, colour mixing through absorption and learning about how their eyes see colour.

Students in Blue class will also have the opportunity to visit our link-farm on a weekly basis for the month of September.

Computing - They will be learning about using the internet safely.

Art - The children will be developing their painting skills by using watercolours, with some lovely work already.



PSHE - The children will be exploring keeping/staying healthy. They will learn that food is needed for bodily health and growth, along with learning to identify the different food groups and their benefits, leading to positive food choices. They will begin to understand a balanced diet explore and practise simple personal cleanliness routines such as washing their hands for the prevention of spreading bacteria and viruses.

Citizenship/RE - This term we will be learning about Yom Kippur, World Dyslexia Day and Black History Month.

PE - This term they are playing tennis. Please note PE is on different days: **Monday - Green Class, Tuesday - Yellow Class, Wednesday - Blue Class**. Please can you put sun cream on your child in the mornings if it is going to be a hot day. We are happy to wash clothing for you, so that it does not have to travel back and forth. **Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit (NAMED) in school.**

Environmental Science - We are all enjoying the colour of the wonderful planting of flowers and vegetables which the children did last summer term. They will be observing the variety of birds, bugs and minibeasts which the gardens attract and collect seeds for next year. They have already tasted some of the runner bean harvest!

Homework - Please listen to your child read and practise times tables/mental maths (arithmetic in your head) at home regularly. We welcome feedback and are happy to suggest authors/texts to support your child, likewise we can suggest games and activities to support maths learning. All children have active Mathletics accounts. Please let us know if you need the login details again and encourage pupils to work towards gaining 1000 points a week (worth 2 tokens).

Thank you for your continued support.

The KS2 team