



## Kestrel's Newsletter Autumn Term 20168

Welcome back, I hope that everybody has had a good Summer break. It has been nice to see the children return to school this week with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm. The children have been really excited by our topic this term- CHOCOLATE (and who can blame them!) We will be reading "Charlie and the chocolate factory" and inspired by the wonderful array of Wonka inventions we will create our own scrumptious chocolate bar recipes. We will be marketing our creations designing the packaging and a persuasive ad campaign. We will be finding out where chocolate comes from, how it is made and all about its long history. This will take us onto the Mayan civilisation which will be the focus of our work for the second half term. Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing throughout this spring term.

<b>English</b> 	<p>This term we will be learning about the works of the fantastic Roald Dahl. We will begin by celebrating Roald Dahl day with some special activities on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Our initial focus will be on developing characterisation and lots of vocabulary work. We will immerse ourselves in a range of his books before focusing on "Charlie and the chocolate factory" which will link to our topic work on Chocolate and the Mayans.</p> <p>We will be learning about a range of different styles of writing including; autobiographies, persuasive writing, instructions, reports, stories and poetry. Each week, the children will also be working on key grammar skills and spelling rules.</p>
<b>Maths</b> 	<p>During the first half of the term the children will be developing their understanding of place value up to 4 digit numbers. They will also be developing their knowledge of strategies to solve addition and subtraction sums using mental and written strategies.</p> <p>After half term we will be furthering our knowledge of multiplication and division. Throughout the term we will be applying our knowledge through problem solving and number puzzles including simple algebra. As part of our topic we will be drawing and reading maps using 4 coordinates and developing our direction work.</p> <p>Each week the children will complete a timed times table test.</p>
<b>Science</b> 	<p>We begin the term by learning about our teeth and digestive systems. We will use our investigative skills to find out what happens to our teeth when exposed to sugary and acidic drinks. At the end of September we will be having a visit from a Scientist who will be teaching us all about digestion from "gums to bums!" Later in the term we will be learning about changing states – a great reason to melt some chocolate!</p>
<b>Computing</b> 	<p>This term's lessons will be focusing on using materials from Purple Mash to support our work in computing. The children will begin by being hardware investigators, finding out about the different parts that make up a computer and their function, producing a leaflet to inform others. We will then be exploring animation; looking at how they are created by hand and then using 2Animate to create their own animations using the computer. After half term the focus will be how we can use spreadsheets using information gathered from our topic work. The children will also continue to develop their computer skills in a variety of different ways in other curriculum areas.</p>
<b>Geography</b> 	<p>We will be identifying the major cocoa producing countries around the world and use this to identify patterns in places the cocoa tree likes to grow, ask geographical questions about weather and climate and draw appropriate conclusions about the physical geography of these places.</p>

<b>History</b>	<p>We will be investigating the civilisation of the Ancient Mayan.. We will be linking their culture with the development of modern day chocolate. As well as finding out about their everyday lives, beliefs and customs.</p>
 <b>Art &amp; Design Technology</b>	<p>In art this term we will be looking at the work of the great illustrator Quentin Blake and what makes an artist's work special and unique. We will be using his drawings to help us create our own characters</p> <p>In DT the children will be inventing and making their own chocolate bar recipes they will also design and create the packaging.</p> <p>The craft of weaving was an important part of Mayan culture and we will be creating some of our own designs inspired by this ancient work.</p>
<b>Music</b> 	<p>This term the children will be learning to read basic musical notes and play simple tunes on a xylophone.</p>
<b>PSHE</b> 	<p>PSHE this term will focus on looking at how and why we need to look after our teeth. Also about the importance of a balanced nutritious diet. We will also be looking at new beginnings and the rights and responsibilities we have to ourselves and others.</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p>This term the children will be focusing on gymnastics using both large and small apparatus, developing sequences, practising and refining our moves. Outdoor PE will focus on hockey and rugby skills, developing control and team work skills building up to playing small sided matches. Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school each day.</p>
<b>Religious Education</b>	<p>This term we are learning about Sikhism and what it's like to be a Sikh in Britain today. How and where Sikhs worship, what is important to their religion and how they celebrate.</p>
<b>MFL</b> 	<p>This term the children will continue learning German.</p> <p>We will be speaking, reading, writing and singing in German!</p>
<b>Other Information</b>	<p>Home learning will follow the same format as last term. We will continue to set tasks where the children will have the opportunity to extend their learning at home in a creative manner. Spellings and times tables will continue as usual.</p>

And finally...

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amy MacLennan