



Kestrels' Newsletter Spring Term 2017

Welcome back, I hope that everybody has had a merry Christmas and a happy new year. The children have been really excited by our topic this term- CHOCOLATE (and who can blame them?!). Our term will begin with some scientific investigations into the different types of chocolate including, the reliability of our taste buds and the different melting temperatures of different types of chocolate. 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. We will be completing the term with a show stopper production of "Charlie and the chocolate factory". Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing throughout this spring term.

<p>English</p> 	<p>This term we will start by immersing ourselves in Michael Rosen's poem "Chocolate cake". We will use the poem's explicit descriptions to inspire our own poetry based on our funny food memories. Throughout the first half term we will be reading "Charlie and the Chocolate factory" by Roald Dahl. We will use this fabulous piece of writing to analyse techniques Roald Dahl has used for creating vivid characters and virtual reality settings with nothing more than the power of words! We will endeavour to follow in his footsteps and create our own characters and chocolate factory, which jump off the page. We will be writing persuasively to market our chocolate bar inventions and design an ad campaign to convince other pupils in the school which chocolate bar to buy. We will revisit writing instructions (recipes) and explanations developing and refining our writing technique. In our work on developing our spelling, punctuation and grammar we will be focusing on using speech marks correctly to indicate when characters are speaking as well as exploring the use of fronted adverbials followed by commas to vary sentence openings. We will also be developing our confidence in using sophisticated conjunctions e.g. despite, however, nevertheless etc., to extend sentences. Using ambitious vocabulary will also be our challenge for the term.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. During the first half of the term the children will be developing their understanding of place value with decimal numbers up to 2 decimal places. They will be investigating the effect of multiplying and dividing these numbers by 10 and 100. We will be comparing decimal fractions to vulgar fractions and applying our knowledge to real life situations involving money and measuring. We will be revisiting the written calculation methods and applying these to solving problems involving measures and money. We will be learning to read the time with the 24 hour clock and using our knowledge in practical everyday situations. We will be collecting data and presenting this in different ways, related to our topic and English work on chocolate bars. We will also apply the number, shape and space skills we learn to solving problems and puzzles.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>This term science will begin by investigating different types of chocolate. The children will learn if their taste buds are really as reliable as they think. They will design an investigation to discover the melting temperature of chocolate with different amounts of cocoa solids. To do this the pupils will need to ask appropriate questions, consider variables and ensure the experiment will be fair, make observations and draw conclusions. Also we will be learning about our teeth and how to look after them. We will also be looking at magnets and how they behave with magnetic materials.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>We will be revisiting E-safety this half term with a focus on how we communicate using various devices and how we can help to keep ourselves and each other safe on the internet. Also we will be using the programme Excel to use spreadsheets and help us manipulate and present the data from our scientific investigations and our market research.</p>

Geography 	<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>
History 	<p>We will be investigating the civilisation of the Ancient Mayans . We will linking their culture with the development of modern day chocolate. As well as finding out about their everyday lives, beliefs and customs.</p>
Art & Design Technology 	<p>In art this term we will be looking at the work of the great illustrator Quentin Blake and what makes an artists' work special and unique. We will be using his drawings to help us create our own characters In DT the children will be inventing and making their own chocolate bar recipes they will also design and create the packaging. 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>
Music 	<p>This term half term we are looking at story telling through music. We will listen and respond to the pieces "Peter and the wolf" and "Fantasia". We will use a range of musical instruments and our own bodies to compose a piece of music to accompany the machines in our inventing room in the Chocolate factory. Next half term we will be reading musical notes and using the glockenspiels. As well learning and singing the songs for our musical production.</p>
PSHE 	<p>PSHE this term will focus on friendships and difficulties of social dynamics ; discussing possible solutions and ways forward during and after conflicts. We will be considering our mind set and challenging ourselves to be better and develop growth mindsets. We will also be investigating healthy foods and ways to improve our diets.</p>
Physical Education	<p>This half term the children will be taking part in dance lessons where will be inspired by the moves of the famous All Blacks dance the Hakka to create our own display. We will use a variety of equipment in our gymnastics classes and explore rotation in different forms. Outside we will be learning about the skills of hockey and playing invasion games.</p>
Religious Education 	<p>This term we are learning about the Christian saints; who they were and why they were chosen to be saints. We will be learning about what is important about their faith to Jewish people. At the end of the term we will be considering Easter and what Christians believe it celebrates.</p>
MFL 	<p>We will be speaking, reading, writing and singing in German! This term the children will be learning about clothes and revisiting colours.</p>
Other Information	<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