



## Kestrels' Newsletter Autumn Term 2017

I hope you all had a lovely break over the summer. The children have come back keen and ready to learn, and are already working very hard. They have produced some excellent holiday homework which is on display in the classroom. We have an exciting term ahead. Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing over the Autumn term.

<b>English</b> 	This term we will be using a variety of texts and stories to stimulate learning including Gabriella's Song and The Roman Bean Feast. These two books both relate to our topic and will provide links with our geography and history work. Gabriella's Song will also help the children learn more about the cultural heritage of Italy. Over the term we will be looking at the key features of narrative writing including work on characters and settings. There will also be opportunities for writing letters, diaries, poetry, reports and non-fiction writing. Each week they will also be working on key grammar skills and spelling rules. There will also be weekly guided reading sessions.
<b>Maths</b> 	Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. Maths will also be an important part of our geography work this term. Map reading will involve using co-ordinates and grid references and we will also be comparing the temperatures of different European cities. During the term the children will also be working on place value and the four operations (+ - x ÷) developing their written and mental methods for each, as well as using and applying them in problem solving situations.
<b>Science</b> 	This half term science lessons will focus on Rocks and Changing States. Both topics will link closely to our work on volcanoes. The children will be investigating different types of rock. Understanding the properties of different rocks will also help them later in the term when they make models of roman roads. When investigating rocks the children will be making predictions, devising fair tests and recording their results accurately. Next half term pupils will be investigating electricity.
<b>Computing</b> 	This term's lessons will be focusing on using the internet safely. The children will also be developing their computer skills in a variety of different ways. For instance, in geography they will learn how to use digital technologies (including Google Earth and Google maps) to increase their understanding of mapping skills and how geographical features are represented on different maps. The children will be learning about how computers have developed and about computer networks. We will be investigating how the internet and world wide web are different.
<b>Geography</b> 	This term we will be learning about Italy. We are planning to 'visit' Italy by having an 'Italy Day' in school. Before they go the children will have to find out where Italy is by looking carefully at different sources (maps, atlases, globes, Google Earth etc). They will research the key physical geographical features they may wish to visit (volcanoes, mountains, lakes etc) as well as the major cities. They will also have lots to do: finding out about the weather (to make sure they pack the right clothes), getting used to using Euros and learning some of the language.
<b>History</b>	In history the children will be learning about the Romans and their invasion of Britain. They will research why the Romans invaded and the difference they made to life in Britain. There will be lots of practical activities (including making a Roman road, cooking Roman food, making mosaics etc) which will help the children develop a deeper understanding of the concept of 'change over time'.

 <p><b>Art &amp; Design Technology</b></p>	<p>Our topic this term will provide opportunities for improving the children's painting and drawing skills. The children will also study the work of some great Italian artists including Leonardo da Vinci.</p> <p>In DT the children will be learning about food technology, inspired by the Italian's love of good food we will be making our own pizzas.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> 	<p>In the first half of the term, the book Gabriella's Song will be used as a starting point to learn about some of the great Italian composers. The children will compose their own songs and learn how to notate their compositions.. They will also be singing each week, developing skills in singing in tune with accurate pitch.</p>
<p><b>PSHE</b></p> 	<p>PHSE lessons will focus on the units; Myself, My Relationships and Emotions, Healthier and Safer Lifestyles. Through our PSHE units of work pupils will explore the relationships we have with others and how we should treat others and how we should expect to be treated ourselves.</p> <p>There will also be a focus on E-safety helping the children to understand how they can keep safe on the internet.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p>	<p>This half term we hope to make good use of the village's Tennis Club and visit their courts for our tennis lessons, our indoor PE will be gymnastics. Next half term the children will learn tag rugby and learn the Hakka the dance made famous by the New Zealand rugby team "The All Blacks". Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school each day.</p>
<p><b>Religious Education</b></p>	<p>This half term will focus on special journeys and pilgrimages. We will start by looking at some of the special journeys we go on before looking at journeys that are special to Christians and Hindus. There will also be opportunities to investigate the similarities between some of these journeys and the reasons behind them. In the second half term we will be learning about how and why light is a significant symbol for different religions.</p>
<p><b>MFL</b></p> 	<p>This term the children will be learning some basic Italian as part of our topic. We will be focusing on continuing to learn German as part of our whole school modern foreign language. The focus will be on learning simple words of greetings and other basic words and phrases. We will be speaking, reading, writing and singing in German!</p>

And finally...

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

Amy MacLennan