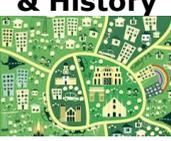




## Kingfishers Newsletter Summer Term 2018

Our topic this term is '**Mini-beasts**'; we will be learning about the tiny animals which live in our local environment. We are planning to visit the Great Fen project in Ramsey Heights and take part in the Big Butterfly Hunt.  
Please find further details about each subject below.

<p><b>English</b></p> 	<p>We will be reading lots of stories based on our topic theme and using them as the context for our learning; we will also read and use non-fiction books which will inform our writing. We will write our own stories which will be based around our topic and the books we have read and enjoyed. We will look at some poems, especially ones which tell a story or give information. We will learn some technical vocabulary that is linked to our topic.</p> <p>Handwriting is a very important aspect of Year 2 life and we will look to 'fine-tune' our handwriting, ensuring that capital and lower-case letters are correctly sized and formed. Our spelling focus this term will be more topic based so keep an eye on the 'Home Learning' section of the website for our current words and rules. I am expecting children to read and write common exception (high frequency) words – please refer to the link on the website should you need a print out. Through our guided reading and books we'll be covering the Year 2 grammar objectives, making them meaningful and relevant.</p>
<p><b>Maths</b></p> 	<p>Maths lessons take place every day and we also have regular, 'short and snappy' mental maths sessions (eg: from 8.40, before lunch, etc) for 10-15 minutes. This term we will focus heavily on applying our calculation and number skills to reasoning problems. Now that we are competent counters (in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s sometimes from different starting points) we will be using these skills to calculate and learn the accompanying times tables. We will use our knowledge of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to help us solve problems. We will also engage in Maths investigations involving shape, measurement, position and direction. We will use our mathematical skills in other areas of the curriculum.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>Our Science work this term will link closely to our mini-beast topic. The children will observe and investigate a variety of animals and their habitats. They will look at the things which living things need, making observations and recording their findings. They will learn the importance of green plants and about food chains. Later in the term they will investigate light, including shadows and reflections, and its link to the seasons .</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> 	<p>We'll be learning this term about the huge variety of technology available to us, both at school and at home; linked in with this is of course internet safety. We will start to use 'Purplemash'.</p>
<p><b>Geography &amp; History</b></p> 	<p>We will name and locate the world's continents and oceans through work on investigating the migration of birds. We will look at how this is linked to weather patterns in different parts of the world and also how the changes in these human influences are affecting wildlife. This will link with our visit to the Great Fen where we will also consider historical events, placing these on a timeline and learn about some early conservationists.</p>

<p><b>Art &amp; DT</b></p> 	<p>In Art, inspired by wildlife and the natural environment, we will be looking closely at pattern and texture and how we can create these using pastels, pencils and collage. We will be changing colours by adding black and white to them. We will use natural materials to create ephemeral art and textiles to make 3-D models of mini-beasts. I am also hoping to arrange for an 'artist-in-residence' to carry out some clay work with us!</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> 	<p>In Music, we will be learning new songs and adding instrumentation – this will involve a few different instruments and we will be composing in groups. Year 1 and 2 take part in weekly singing sessions and enjoy regular opportunities to sing in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>PSHE</b></p> 	<p>PSHE lessons will focus on healthy and safer life styles. Children will learn about risks in the environment around them, including roads, water and the sun, and also the importance of e-safety. They will learn how to stay safe, what to do in an emergency and who can help us. Later in the term, linked with our Science work on life cycles, we will be looking at how babies change and grow, how we have changed since we were babies and about our responsibilities now that we are older.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p> 	<p>We have a variety of specialist coaches working with us in PE lessons this term to develop athletic and cricket skills. These sessions will focus on the skills necessary for these disciplines and will involve healthy amounts of personal and small competitions. The children will be working on multi-skills activities and will take part in the whole school sports mornings.</p>
<p><b>Religious Education</b></p> 	<p>This term's focus is on Christianity where we will be looking at the role which the family plays in upholding Christian beliefs and traditions. Later on this term we will be looking at places special to us and sacred places of Christian worship. We will be talking to people to find out about their faith and the difference which it makes to them.</p>
<p><b>Other Information</b></p> 	<p>Please ensure that your child is well equipped for school – a water bottle, sun cream (children need to be able to apply their own) and waterproof are essential, particularly as the weather is so changeable.</p> <p>PE kit must consist of suitable indoor and outdoor clothing; sturdy, well-fitting trainers (<b>not</b> plimsolls) are a must. This term, PE may be subject to change to fit in with outside coaching sessions and we will also take part in the monthly whole school Friday Sports. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school with them on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday so that they are able to participate fully in this important part of the curriculum.</p> <p>We start our learning after the first morning bell (which goes at 8.40am). Children are often involved in groups at this time and it's also a good time to consolidate learning and to practise skills. It's great to see children organising their school gear independently in the cloakroom before coming in to start the day!</p>

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

*Mrs Siân Grant*