














Kingfishers Newsletter Spring Term 2018

Our topic this term is '**Up**'; we will be learning about a variety of natural and manmade things that move through the air but will not be venturing into space! Please find further details about each subject below.

English 	We will be reading lots of stories based on our topic theme about a variety of objects and using them as the context for our learning, as well as having a go at writing our own stories. We will look at poems and learn some to recite by heart. We will learn some technical vocabulary that is linked to our topic. Regular spelling sessions take place on numerous occasions each week and we constantly look for spelling patterns when reading. Each week we will focus on a specific set of words/rules (keep any eye on the 'Home Learning' section of the website so you know what the weekly focus is), in addition to learning common exception (high frequency) words. Through our guided reading and books we'll be covering the Year 2 grammar objectives, making them meaningful and relevant.
Maths 	Maths lessons take place every day and we also have regular, 'short and snappy' mental maths sessions (e.g. from 8.40, before lunch, etc.) for 10-15 minutes. This term we will focus heavily on developing number fluency so that children can recognise and use numbers confidently. This will involve a lot of counting – forwards, backwards, from different start numbers and developing children's understanding of place value so that they can order numbers. We will also focus on learning number facts e.g. doubling, halving, 2x, 5x and 10x tables. We will look for opportunities to link out learning in Maths to our topic, for instance; by taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.
Science 	Our Science work this term will link closely to our topic 'Up'. The children will make observations and record their findings. They will have a go at testing some simple equipment that they make, such as parachutes, spinners and kites. Our practical Science investigations will link well to Maths as we will be measuring and collecting data.
Computing 	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.
Geography & History 	We will look at basic geographical features on maps so that we can identify! Key features such as mountains and oceans. Aerial views will also link to our topic work as we will be thinking about what we might see if we are flying and looking down. We will enjoy some historical stories and will try to place significant events in order on a timeline and will learn a little about pioneers of flight such as the Wright brothers and Amelia Earhart.
Art & DT 	In Art we will be looking closely at pattern and texture and how we can create these using pastels and pencil techniques. We will also be experimenting with different materials to make collages. We will also have the opportunity to colour mix powder paints to make secondary colours.

<p>Music</p> 	<p>In Music, we are learning about the structure of songs and may even have a go at playing songs in our own band! Later in the term we will be learning about music from different parts of the world. The children will take part in a weekly 'Singing Assembly', in addition to enjoying learning songs in the classroom.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>PSHE lessons will focus on 'My Emotions'; children will learn about a whole range of emotions and what may contribute to them feeling such a way. There will be plenty of role play opportunities so that children have the chance to experience scenarios in a safe context and will work on ways to deal with tricky situations independently. Our Golden Rules are very important to us both in the classroom and around school and are referred to regularly.</p>
<p>Physical Education</p> 	<p>In their indoor PE lessons this term, the children will be working on their dance and movement skills, often working in pairs and small groups to create sequences based on a piece of music. In outdoor PE, they'll be enjoying games and multi-skills activities, vital for physical learning and awareness at this age.</p>
<p>Religious Education</p> 	<p>This half term's focus is on Sikhism – we will be becoming familiar with stories about the Gurus and the concept of 'selflessness'. Later on this term we will be learning about the Christian celebration of Easter and before that, Lent. We will be exploring why these celebrations are special to Christians and the different ways in which they are celebrated.</p>
<p>Other Information</p> 	<p>Please ensure that your child is well equipped for school – water bottle (every day!) and waterproof are essential! It is useful for children to keep a pair of wellies at school (there is a welly rack outside our cloakroom). PE kit must consist of suitable indoor and outdoor clothing; sturdy, well-fitting trainers (not plimsolls) are a must. Our PE days this term are Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as taking part in monthly whole school Friday Sports session. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school with them on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday.</p> <p>We start our learning after the first morning bell (which goes at 8.40am) – at this time children are often involved in groups and it's also a great time to consolidate learning and practise skills. Throughout the day children organise their own gear in the cloakroom very independently so please say goodbye outside and not inside and leave them to it! It's a small space and it can be quite daunting for little people if there are too many adults in the cloakroom! Thank you!</p>

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

Mrs Siân Grant