



Owl's Newsletter Autumn Term 2016

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 home learning which is on display in the classroom. We have an exciting term ahead. Please see below for an overview of some of the work we will be doing during the autumn term.

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| <p>English</p>  | <p>This term we will be using a variety of texts and stories to stimulate learning including <i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i>, <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> and <i>The Journey</i>. The last two books both relate to our topic on Rivers and will provide links with our geography and science work. 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, poetry, reports and information booklets. Each week the children will also be working on handwriting, key grammar skills and spelling rules. There will also be weekly guided reading sessions.</p> |
| <p>Maths</p>  | <p>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 measuring the speed, depth and width of the river during our fieldwork visits. During the first half term the children will be working on place value and measures, as well as developing their written and mental methods for addition and subtraction. Each week the children will continue to work on their basic maths skills to keep these skills sharp and to allow us to identify areas which need to be recapped either individually or as a class.</p> |
| <p>Science</p>  | <p>This term science lessons will focus on <i>Forces</i>, <i>The Water Cycle</i> and <i>Habitats and Food Chains</i>. These topics will link closely to our work on rivers. The children will be investigating the forces involved when an object floats or sinks. They will then put their knowledge to good use by designing rafts and boats in DT. They will also be learning more about the river and the riverbank as a local habitat. We are hoping to see lots of wildlife on our river trip.</p> |
| <p>Computing</p>  | <p>This term's lessons will be focusing on using the internet safely as well as deepening our understanding of computer networks. 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.</p> |

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| <p>Geography</p>  | <p>Our Rivers topic will help us increase our skills as geographers. There will be lots of fieldwork trips down to the river to help us with our learning. We will start by looking at the human and physical geographical features of the river and the land alongside it, before moving on to some detailed map work.</p> |
| <p>Art & Design Technology</p>  | <p>Our topic this term will provide opportunities for improving the children's painting and drawing skills. They are already developing their sketching skills by learning different techniques such as hatching and stippling.</p> <p>In DT the children will be designing, making and testing rafts and boats.</p> |
| <p>Music</p>  | <p>In music lessons, the book <i>The Journey</i> will be used as a starting point to compose music that describes the journey of a river. In order to help the children learn how to read music, they will learn how to play the glockenspiel. They will also be singing each week.</p> |
| <p>PSHE</p>  | <p>PHSE lessons are currently focusing on our school's Golden Rules. We have discussed why we need them and are looking at each one to decide what it means to us in our classroom, around the school and outside at playtimes.</p> <p>We will then be focusing on <i>Myself and Relationships</i>, looking at what it means to be a good friend. There will also be a focus on E safety helping the children to understand how they can keep safe on the internet.</p> |
| <p>Physical Education</p> | <p>This half term the children will learn tag rugby and gymnastics. We will also take part in many intra-school competitions/activities during our Sporting Fridays. Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school each day. PE kits should be brought in every Monday and left in school for the week.</p> |
| <p>Religious Education</p> | <p>This term will focus on <i>Special Places</i>. The children have already been thinking about places that are special to them. We will look at key places that are special to some religions. In particular we will look at why the River Ganges is so special to Hindus.</p> |
| <p>MFL</p>  | <p>In Key Stage 2 the children learn German. As well as learning simple words and phrases they will also be reading, writing and singing in German. At the start of term Marie-Sophie, our German student, will be talking to the children about life in Germany and teaching them some simple words and phrases.</p> |
| <p>Other Information and Finally</p> | <p>Please can you ensure that your child has their Reading diary and AR book in school every day as we have a daily AR reading session in school. We value your support in encouraging your child to also read at home every day. The children all now have their Athletics passwords and can continue to practice their maths skills at home too.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>Julie Davison</p> |