



## Owls' Newsletter Spring Term 2017

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. The children have come back keen and ready to learn, and are already working very hard. We have an exciting term ahead. Please see below for an overview of the work we will be doing over the coming term.

<p><b>English</b></p> 	<p>This term our topic is <i>Chocolate</i> and in English we will be reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. The children will be looking closely at the characters, setting and plot and using these as a stimulus for their own writing. They will also write poetry that uses their senses to describe chocolate and create their own recipes. We are planning to perform Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with year 4 to family and friends at the end of term so we will also be looking closely at the play script of the story.</p> <p>In the second half of the term we will be reading an ancient Mayan traditional story: The Rain Player.</p>
<p><b>Maths</b></p> 	<p>Each day the children will take part in a daily Mathematics session. Maths will also be an important part of our topic work this term. They will be comparing the temperatures of England and countries that grow cacao trees. They will also be collecting data on chocolate consumption and presenting this data in different ways. Alongside this they will continue to focus on the four operations (+ - x ÷), developing their written and mental methods for each, as well as using and applying them in problem solving situations. They will also be learning to tell the time, as well as learning how to find the perimeter of shapes. 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><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>This term science lessons relate to our topic on Chocolate. This will inspire us to ask some key questions including:</p> <p>What ingredients are in chocolate and is it good or bad for you?</p> <p>Does chocolate cause tooth decay?</p> <p>How does the cacao plant grow?</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> 	<p>This term the children will improve their digital literacy skills by learning how to access and collect information efficiently. They will use child friendly search engines to access information and learn how to bookmark a webpage by creating a favourite. They will use programs such as excel to collect, analyse and present data relating to chocolate. We will continue to look at how to keep safe on the internet.</p>
<p><b>Geography</b></p> 	<p>This term we will be finding out where chocolate comes from and identify key chocolate growing regions of the world in an atlas. We will find out why the climate is suitable for growing cacao trees and investigate the importance of Fair-trade for the people who work there.</p>

<p><b>History</b></p> 	<p>In the second half of the term there will be a history focus. Investigating who first discovered chocolate will take us back to the Ancient Maya civilisation. This is a very exciting and interesting period of history, with pyramids, hieroglyphs and a ball game that was used instead of battles to settle disputes between different tribes. <i>Mexicolore</i> will be visiting us to share their expertise and engage the children in many 'hands on' activities.</p>
<p><b>Art &amp; Design Technology</b></p> 	<p>In the first half of the term the children will use the illustrations by Quentin Blake as a stimulus for improving their drawing and painting skills.</p> <p>In the second half of the term our research on the ancient Maya will inspire artwork made from clay and textiles.</p> <p>The main focus of DT this term will be a project to design and create a new chocolate bar. We hope to share the results with you later in the term to get your feedback on which you think should be the next new chocolate sensation! We are also planning to get a local business involved in this project.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> 	<p>In Music the children will continue to develop their singing skills preparing songs for our musical production at the end of term. They will also compose their own music creating 'machines' (for the chocolate factory) using different percussion instruments and rhythmic ostinato patterns. They will also make their own musical instruments inspired by the instruments of the ancient Maya.</p>
<p><b>PSHE</b></p> 	<p>PSHE this term will focus on friendship. This will include how to resolve conflicts and build positive relationships.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education</b></p>	<p>This half term the children will learn hockey and dance. Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school each day.</p>
<p><b>Religious Education</b></p> 	<p>In RE the children will look at different creation myths from across the world (and from History). They will find out who are the 'Saints of God' and why they are important. They will also look investigate the question 'is Easter a festival of new life or sacrifice?'</p>
<p><b>MFL</b></p> 	<p>This term the children will continue to learn German. They will talk, read, write and sing in German. There will be a focus on colours and food as well as learning more about Germany as a country.</p>
<p><b>Other Information</b></p> <p><b>...and Finally</b></p>	<p>Home learning will continue to be set each week. Please look on the Owls' home Learning page on the school website for details.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p><b>Julie Davison</b></p>