

Marsupials Spring Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. Our topic this term is the Ancient Egyptians which got off to a fabulous start with our special Egyptian day. The children had a brilliant day! Huge thanks for helping children with their costumes and to the parents who were able to help on the day.

English

In English we will be studying a variety of Cinderella stories before writing our own. We will be reading a Grimm version; Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhyme poem; Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters (set in Africa); and The Egyptian Cinderella. When writing, we will be looking to include speech using inverted commas. After half-term we will be using The Day of Ahmed's Secret as a stimulus for writing.

Each week we will be learning a spelling rule or pattern which will be practised as part of the week's homework. At the same time, we will be working on words from the Year 3 & 4 spelling list. Handwriting will continue to be a strong focus this term; please ensure children complete their spellings using continuous cursive (joined-up) handwriting.

Maths

Our units of work this term focus on division, fractions, time and money. Please support your child at home by helping them with their On The Boil targets and how to tell the time

Our Maths On The Boil targets for Spring 1 are:

- Year 3: Know division facts for the 3x, 4x and 8x tables
- Year 4: Know division facts for the 6x, 7x and 9x tables

Our Maths On The Boil targets for Spring 2 are:

- Year 3: Finding change from £1
- Year 4: Finding change from £10 (multiples of 5p)

Useful websites for this are:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/mathsdiv.html>

We would also recommend regular practice with RM Easimaths and TT Rockstars.

Science: Light and Sound

We will consider what produces light and what counts as a light source. We will investigate shadows (whether they're blocking sunlight or electric light) and how shadows' size and shape can be changed. We will learn the difference between the meanings of transparent, translucent and opaque. We will start to think about the relationship between light and colours.



We will study differences between sounds – how high they are and how loud they are. We will find ways of using objects to produce a variety of sounds. We will also investigate ways to help or hinder the way sound travels.

P.E.

We are swimming this term on Friday mornings. Children need to have their swimming kit each week. Additional PE lessons will focus on Athletics and Tennis. Please make sure children have their PE kits in school from Monday to Friday.

Art and Design & Technology

This term our Art and Design will be based around our Ancient Egyptian topic. We will be deciphering hieroglyphics and learning how to write our names, creating our own cartouche. Children will be improving their use of equipment and techniques to design and make canopic jars using clay. We will be making mummies in cases and would be grateful for any cardboard cereal boxes, tinfoil and kitchen roll.

Music

We will hear, create and perform chants and songs relating to Egypt and Africa, including some real African music and some that imitates the styles of that continent. We will also investigate ways in which the size of a chime-bar relates to the sound that it produces.

Computing

This term in Computing, the focus is on working with media. At the beginning of the term, children are going to practise their word processing skills and type up a short report about the Ancient Egyptians. They will be asked to search for some facts on the internet and copy and paste their text. Also, children will need to use more than two fingers to type up their subheadings on the laptop. They then explore the theme a bit further by creating a digital presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint. Children will need to familiarise themselves with the environment and choose the most suitable text styles for their presentation to make it more attractive.

History

This term we will be learning about the achievements of the earliest civilizations – with a particular focus on the Ancient Egyptians.

P.S.H.C.E.

Our theme this half-term is Say No To Bullying. We will be learning about safe use of the internet through the Safer Internet Day in February. After half-term we will be learning about fair trade and joining in with Fair Trade Fortnight.

Important dates

Wednesday 1st February: The Miscalculation of Cap'n Half-inch (Maths workshop for children)

Tuesday 7th February: Safer Internet Day

Friday 10th February: Kangaroos' class assembly

Friday 3rd March: Koalas' Class assembly