

BIG CATS CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2016

Happy new year and welcome back to a new term!

We have an exciting topic in store for the children this term which we have called 'Curiouser and curiouser', a reference to *'Alice In Wonderland'* which is our class book for the term. This topic will allow us to explore our local area: Kidlington this half-term and Oxford after half-term. If you have any amazing stories, photographs or maps of Kidlington from the past, please let us know!

ENGLISH

The term has started with us delving into the world of the author Lewis Carroll through two poems: *'Jabberwocky'*, and *'The Walrus and The Carpenter'*. These poems have inspired some great performances, as well as both poetry and diary writing, and some important work on word classes.

Through reading and studying *Alice in Wonderland*, children will be writing their own fantasy adventures.

In terms of non-fiction, children will be collecting information on a local issue and presenting balanced discussion texts.

As always, we will continue to work hard on spellings and grammar. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their weekly spelling homework using joined-up handwriting.

MATHS

Our 3 main areas of focus for the Spring term are:

- Division
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Time

These are the key targets from these areas (Essentials in bold):

Year 5

I can divide with a formal method (short division): 4-digit ÷ 1-digit

I can compare and order fractions whose denominators are multiples.

I can identify multiples and factors, including all factor pairs and common factors.

I use % symbol and can write percentages as fractions and decimals.

I can add and subtract fractions whose denominators are multiples.

I can multiply proper fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers.

I can complete, read and interpret information in tables, including timetables.

Year 6

I can divide using formal method (long division): 4-digit ÷ 2-digit and interpret remainders.

I can recall and use equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages.

I can use knowledge of order of operations to calculate all 4 operations.

I can identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers.

I use common factors to simplify fractions.

I can compare and order fractions, including fractions >1

I can add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

I can calculate percentages of amounts.

Our **On The Boil** mental Maths targets are:

Year 5: recall division facts for all times tables eg $56 \div 7 =$

Year 6: calculate fractions of amounts (including when numerators are not 1) eg $2/3$ of 18

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SCIENCE

Our Science focus this half-term is Light and then Electricity after half-term. These are the National Curriculum objectives that will be covered:

- to recognise that light travels in straight lines
- to explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes (or via reflections)
- to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them
- to associate lamp brightness or volume of a buzzer with the number/voltage of cells in the circuit
- to use recognised symbols in a simple circuit diagram

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

This topic allows us to undertake a local history study: first of all around Kidlington and then widening the area to include Oxford. We are hoping to use the local library to research and complete a project on the Oxford Zoo.

In Geography we will be learning map skills and examining how our local area has changed over time. These are the National Curriculum objectives that will be covered:

- ♣ use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- ♣ use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

R.E.

We will be using 2011 census data to analyse religions in different areas, comparing the local Kidlington area to Oxford, London and England. We will be conducting a survey of religion across the school and presenting our results using graphs and charts. After this we will be learning more about different aspects of Christianity through the churches present in Kidlington.

P.E.

Lions, Tigers and Panthers will be doing P.E. on Mondays and Thursdays this term. We will be doing Gymnastics and Indoor Athletics followed by Netball later in the term. Please ensure your child has the correct kit on these days.

Art / Design and Technology

This half-term we will be studying the work of illustrators in picture books. We will then illustrate our own fantasy stories using a range of techniques.

After half-term, we will be bread and pizza making. Look out for a letter soon about class trips to Pizza Express in Oxford.

Important dates

Tuesday 19th January: Maths Information session for parents @2.30pm
Monday 25th January: Year 6 Residential meeting for current Y5 parents @6.30pm
Wednesday 24th February: Panthers pizza-making trip to Pizza Express
Tuesday 8th March: Tigers pizza-making trip to Pizza Express
Tuesday 15th March: Lions pizza-making trip to Pizza Express