

Marsupials Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! This term, we are bringing in the New Year in Tudor style.

English

In English lessons, we will be focusing on *The Prince, the Cook and the Cunning King* by Terry Deary. Using this book, we will be looking at characters and twists within the story's plot in depth and use this as a basis for writing a formal persuasive letter. In order to write this letter, we will be exploring the use of punctuation and reasoning for arguments and persuasion.

In addition to this, we will continue to learn weekly spelling patterns and use these in our writing.

Maths

In Maths lessons, we will be continuing to work on topics in depth. The start of this term will focus on division. This coincides with the new 'On the Boil' targets for year 3 and year 4. The latter half of the term will explore fractions.

See the 'On the Boil' poster outlining our expectations for each year group. Please support us by practising times tables using TT Rockstars (<https://trockstars.com>).

These are useful websites for learning division facts and corresponding tables facts:

Mathsplayground: <http://www.mathplayground.com/division01.html>

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

Fun4thebrain: <http://www.fun4thebrain.com/division.html>

Snappymaths:

<http://www.snappymaths.com/multdiv/1to12xtab/interactive/1to12ximm/1to12ximm.htm>

Tablesmaster: <http://www.transum.org/Software/Tablesmaster/>

Science

This term's Science topic is Electricity. Children will learn why a circuit is needed and what makes a circuit work. They will think of electricity as energy that can be converted into other forms of energy, and they will solve problems using their scientific skills.

P.E.

This term, the children will be having swimming lesson on a Friday. They will develop their skills of moving through water, keeping themselves safe, and removing objects from the water.

In games we will continue to work on children's techniques and on individual and team tactics. In particular, the main sport this term will be hockey.

Art and Design & Technology

This term, the children will be exploring the use of position and poise in portraits from today and the Tudor times. They will create a self-portrait in Tudor style using a range of materials and compare these to modern photographs and pictures. When comparing, the children will work towards drawing simple sketches of figures to show gesture and relationships.

History

This term's topic focus will be on the history of the Tudors. We will be exploring the monarchy of the Tudor period with increased research into Henry VIII and his six wives. We will also be looking at Tudor lifestyle and comparisons between the rich and the poor.

Music

We will be studying rounds and canons – including one of the most well-known canons by the famous Tudor composer Thomas Tallis. Children will be writing and performing their own sung and spoken canons and adding instrumental sounds and actions.

Important dates:

Tuesday 9th February – Year 3 and 4 trip to Sulgrave Manor, near Banbury

Wednesday 16th March 2016 – Year 3 and 4 creative homework due in

Friday 18th March 2016 – Year 3 and 4 topic celebration

Topic Celebration

You are warmly invited to come in and see what we have been producing at our Topic Celebration. This will be on Friday 18th March. Please help your child to make sure that their creative homework – a Tudor style house – can be brought in by Wednesday 16th March.

French

This term in French we are learning some basic greetings and small talk. The children will have an opportunity to practise simple conversations with their talk partners and learn a bit more about how to pronounce and write some key phrases in French. In addition, children will practise saying and recalling numbers up to 12 in French. By the end of this half-term your child should be able to understand and memorise some small talk phrases in French; grasp some key vocabulary regarding greetings and recall quickly some real numbers.

Computing

In Computing, children will have a chance to create their own digital environment using the new Myths and Legends account, for which passwords will be given out later. They will learn how to create a 3D digital world for a game with land, water and scenery, program the characters to navigate the 3D world and do the conditional statements ('if...then') to give objects behaviours. This will give children enough opportunities to practise working with some simple creation software and learn some transferable skills regarding copying, cutting and pasting, and saving their work on a computer.