

Marsupials Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a brilliant summer. This term the school is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth. In Years 3 and 4, we will be using 'The BFG' as the inspiration for our learning and asking the question, "What does it mean to live in harmony?"

English

In English we will be exploring the characters in the book through drama and learning to write from their viewpoints. We will challenge the behaviour of The BFG and consider if the giants could live together in harmony. Children will learn persuasive techniques in order to convince the giants to change their ways. We will use The BFG's grammatical inaccuracies to learn word classes and punctuation. Each week we will be learning a spelling rule or pattern which will be practised as part of the week's homework. Handwriting will be a strong focus this term; please ensure children complete their spellings using cursive (joined-up) handwriting.

Maths

Our units of work this half-term focus on number and place value, addition and subtraction. Children will be reading, writing and partitioning numbers. We will be practising informal addition and subtraction strategies with some pupils starting to use column methods. Our mental Maths On The Boil targets are:

Year 3: Know all number bonds to 100 (multiples of 5)

Year 4: Know all number bonds to 100

Useful websites for this are:

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

<http://www.mathplayground.com/PartPartWhole.html>

Your child also has login for RM Easimaths which can be used regularly to support Maths learning.

Science

We will be exploring materials and their similarities and differences, including:

- what we mean by solid, liquid and gas;
- what happens when materials are mixed;
- whether or not mixed materials can be separated;
- what happens when some materials are heated.

Later we will focus specifically on rocks and soils, including where different ones can be found and how they came into being.

Music

We will be thinking about how to create atmosphere with musical sounds, in particular the atmosphere of dreams (relating to the story of the BFG). Children will work in groups to create accompanied songs and other pieces of music that tell little stories.

P.E.

Please make sure children have their PE kits in school from Monday to Thursday. This term the children will be participating in several outdoor activities. They will be practising their co-ordination and working in groups and teams. There will be opportunities through the term for children to participate in a variety of sport-related activities. The focus of the indoor lessons is gymnastics.

French

This term in French, we will start practising simple conversations, such as Meet & Greet, in talk partners, so that the children can build their confidence by talking to each other in French. We will start building our French vocabulary through songs and actions in order to perfect the rhythm and pronunciation of topic words. We will also practise reading, writing in words, memorising and recalling all the numbers up to 20.

Computing

In Computing, children will be building upon their knowledge of using electronic devices as we begin working on laptops. We start the term by talking about Internet Safety and then move on to explore other aspects of the computing curriculum, particularly how to use and explore the coding environment using Scratch 2. Children will be encouraged to use touch typing, copying and pasting when using Internet Explorer, Google Chrome and Microsoft Office.

Art and Design & Technology

This term the Art and Design focus will be based around our BFG topic. We will be exploring dreams and the children will be designing and making their own dream jars and dreamcatchers. For this we will need to collect glass jars, please start bringing them into class as soon as possible.

A reminder to please send your child in with a named oversized shirt or apron which they will use in Art to protect their uniform.

P.S.H.C.E.

Our theme this half-term is New Beginnings. Children will be considering the importance of rules, rights and responsibilities when forming their class charter. Children will be learning strategies to manage their feelings and reflect on qualities needed to be a good learner.

Homework

Homework will be given out each Friday and is due in the following Friday. There will be spellings each week (please make sure children use a pencil and their joined-up handwriting). Other homework will alternate between English and Maths. Please aim to read with your child 5 times a week and support them with their On The Boil Maths target.

Important dates

Friday 7th October: INSET Day

Thursday 20th October: School photos

Monday 24th – Fri 28th October: Half-term

Monday 7th November: Flu vaccination (Y3)

Monday 14th – 18th November: Assessment Week

Week beginning 28th November: SEN Profile meetings