

Dempsey Class Spring Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your cards, presents and good wishes we received in the build up to Christmas. I would also like to inform you of the curriculum content your child will be studying during the first half of the spring term, as well as the day to day routines and procedures.

English and Maths

As I am sure you are aware, your child takes part in English and Maths lessons every day. To assist your child in their development in both these curriculum areas, please give them support and encouragement in reading and practising their times tables/division facts every day and encourage them to utilise the online Mathletics revision programme at home using their personal log in.

Furthermore we encourage you to give your child regular mental calculation practice: encouraging them to add up the cost of items when shopping; telling the time and calculating time durations such as, 'If a film begins at 3.05 and ends at 5.20 how long is the film?' and calculating sums from all the four operations are all important in supporting your child's confidence with mental calculation. We focus just as much on mental calculation as we do written calculation. To further support your child's maths learning, please see your child's maths target card with individual targets designed to help extend and improve their mathematical skills and confidence. Please support your child by working through their targets on a regular basis.

To help improve your child's reading and comprehension skills please ensure that you encourage them to read for thirty minutes every day at home; encourage them to read a wide variety of genres of text; listen to them reading aloud and question them on the text that they are reading daily.

Science

During this term your child will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of Earth and Space. Your child will learn about the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system. They learn about the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth and describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies, while using the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky. Your child will have the opportunity to work scientifically:

planning a scientific enquiry to answer a question and reporting their findings through a presentation.

RE

Our first topic this half term is Sources. In this topic your child will explore the different books of the Bible and the wide variety of purposes for which they were written. They will learn that, although written by many different authors over a long period of time that the Bible is a story of God's love, all inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore your child will be learning about the religion of Hinduism. Through a variety of activities they will learn about: The beliefs, teachings and sources of Hinduism; Hindu celebration and ritual and Hindu social and moral practice.

History/Geography

In Geography this half term, your child will voyage across the Atlantic as they discover the continent of North America and all its amazing countries, cities and landscapes. They will identify the twenty three countries of North America, from the vast lands of the USA and Canada down through Central America and on to the Caribbean islands. On the way they will explore the various geographical features of different areas of North America and compare them with their own locality.

DT/Art

This half term's Art topic will see your child learning about artistic illusions. They will learn to analyse how artists explore and create perspective in their work through the study of a variety of different artistic pieces. They will then work to apply these techniques in order to create their own artistic pieces in the style of illusions.

Computing

In the first half of the spring term your child will explore how computers can be used to solve word problems; how algebra is applied in the real and technological world and how to build composite images, animations and videos through code. Over the duration of this topic the children will learn to: create sequences of instructions to control events; use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs and work to edit and refine the quality of their work.

MFL

Throughout KS2 your child has been developing their knowledge and confidence in using the French language. They will continue to build on this during the spring term following the Catherine Cheater Scheme of Work. They will explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. Further to this they will begin to develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are using familiar words and phrases, continuing to gain confidence in using simple language for classroom interaction.

PE

Your child has P.E every **Tuesday and Wednesday**. Please ensure they have their full **Indoor** and **Outdoor PE** kits, ensuring it fits in with the school's policy, for all lessons. In addition, your child will have the opportunity to partake in extra PE sessions, every other half term, with our sports coach David Dines on **Friday** and music sessions with our specialist music teacher Mr Dixon.

In indoor PE your child will develop their gymnastic skills and techniques. In this unit your child will focus on improving the quality of their movement through rolling, and balancing e.g. by stretching fingers and pointing toes, to help them produce tension and extension, and maintaining an equilibrium in a variety of positions. They will plan and perform sequences of contrasting actions, and develop flow by linking actions smoothly and planning variations in speed, working together in a group.

In outdoor PE your child will develop the key skills in hockey. They will learn how to hit, push and strike the puck into spaces, to team mates and so that they can score in different ways. Your child will learn to think about how they use skills, strategies and tactics to work as part of a team and outwit the opposition. In both indoor and outdoor PE sessions your child will be working on their physical fitness and learning about how they can lead a healthy lifestyle.

Finally, it would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that your child brings their school water bottle into school everyday, with their name clearly marked on it. If your child does not have a school water bottle, they are available from the school office for £1.50. Please ensure any money that is sent into school is enclosed in a school money pocket and detailed with the necessary information. Money pockets can be purchased from the school reception also.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Hoyes
Dempsey Class Teacher