

Elizabeth Class

Curriculum Newsletter: Spring Term



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and thank you for all your kind Christmas wishes last half term, as well as your touching generosity!

As we begin the spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, remind you of the class routines and tell you of the topics your child will be learning about in the first half-term.

Routines

Homework

Your child will receive Maths and English homework each Thursday so that you have an opportunity to look over it with them and ask questions on Friday, if there is anything they do not understand. Homework is always linked to the work that has been carried out in class and provides your child with a valuable opportunity to share and consolidate the learning that has taken place in school. Your child's homework will be stuck in their homework book and this book should be returned to school on Monday mornings. In addition, your child will continue to receive their purple "Spelling Sentences Book" to help support their spelling and literacy development. Completed sentences should also be returned to school on Mondays. Thank you for your support in this area, particularly with helping your child recognise and build on their feedback each week.

Spellings

Spelling lists will be given out each Tuesday and should be learnt throughout the week for a spelling test on the following Monday. Your child should practise their spellings every day to ensure they have committed them to memory and can apply them in their writing.

Homework Timetable

Tuesday: Spellings and Spelling Sentences Book sent home

Thursday: Homework sent home

Monday: All homework is returned

Reading

Your child has been provided with a reading book and we aim to hear your child read twice a week, and change their books on a weekly basis. To facilitate this, please ensure your child's reading book and reading record are brought to school in their book bag every day. It is very important that you hear your child read out loud each day and ask questions about their book to check their understanding. Their school reading book should be read more than once to ensure they cannot only read the words but most importantly, understand what it is about. Please remember to record a comment in your child's reading record each time they are read with; comments can be written about school books read or books read from home. We encourage children to read books from home and the library in addition to those sent from school, to broaden their reading experience, and it's lovely to see this recorded in their reading record.

In addition to this, your child will also take part in guided reading sessions where they will have an opportunity to read and discuss a range of interesting texts (selected by the class teacher), with their peers and the teacher, to develop their knowledge of reading strategies and to promote a love of reading.

Uniform

We consider water bottles a part of school uniform and something that is vitally important to help keep children's brains hydrated to help them concentrate so they can be effective in their learning. Please send your child to school with a full water bottle (containing only water) every day and ensure these and all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with their name. This will ensure they can be easily recovered if lost and minimise the cost of replacement.

This term your child will be learning the following:

English

In English, children will continue to work on writing correctly punctuated sentences within a range of different text types. Throughout the half term we will cover: stories with familiar settings, character descriptions and writing for different purposes, such as Non-Chronological Reports. Your child will continue to develop their phonic knowledge to enable them to identify letter sounds and apply these when spelling new words, including consolidating digraphs (sounds represented by two letters, e.g. **firm**, **cream**, **flute**) and trigraphs (sounds represented by three letters, e.g. **night**, **hatch**). Your child will also continue to develop their understand of adjacent consonants such as **slip** and **cart**. They will continue to practise their handwriting skills in order to ensure their letters are formed correctly to help them develop a fluid, joined style.

Maths

In maths we will continue to count on and back in steps of two, three, five and ten. This will help to aid our work on developing an understanding of multiplication which children approach as repeated addition, e.g. $3 \times 2 = 2 + 2 + 2$. We will link this to learning our times tables and continue to recall and apply the 2, 5 and 10 times table facts within maths problems as the term progresses. We will also move towards division as repeated subtraction, as well as doubling and halving. Please refer to the maths calculation booklet given to you during Target Setting Parent's Evening in the autumn term to familiarise yourself with the strategies we will be using. With all our maths concepts, we provide children with opportunities to apply these strategies to word problems and different real life situations. Children will also be developing an understanding of concepts such as position and direction, different measures and recognising the characteristics of 2D and 3D shapes. In addition to daily maths lessons, children will take part in guided maths sessions where they will work with the class teacher in small groups.

Science

In science your child will be learning about "Animals, including humans." We will focus on animals and their offspring, and how they grow. Children will learn to describe the basic needs of animals for survival, such as water and food. Furthermore, we will discuss the importance of exercise and classifying which foods make a healthy diet.

Geography

In geography your child will be learning all about the geography of the United Kingdom. Your child will investigate which countries make up the United Kingdom, their capital cities and features of these, along

with the different seas and oceans which surround the UK. The children will also be exploring the seasons and the weather patterns which distinguish them.

Computing

In the first half of spring term the children will be studying a topic called 'We are Researchers', in which they will learn how to safely use the internet to research data linked to other areas of the curriculum. Your child will learn how to develop lines of questioning, organise the information they find and then create an effective presentation for their audience.

Art/DT

This term your child will be learning all about sculptures. They will be looking at sculptures in the local area to inspire them to create their own imaginative art work, using clay. Your child will also learn about the skills needed to sculpt clay, such as pinching, rolling, marking and joining.

PE

In gymnastics, your child will be learning different gymnastic rolls including the log, egg and teddy bear roll. They will develop physical control, body tension and their ability to move fluently from different gymnastic moves and stances to create sequences.

Your child will also develop their kicking skills in outdoor PE where they will work on travelling with a ball, dribbling and passing techniques. Additionally, they will begin to explore simple gaming tactics such as selecting an appropriate pass or dribble and marking opponents.

Our PE days remain the same with indoor PE taking place on Mondays and outdoor PE on Tuesdays. The children's PE kits should contain tracksuits, shorts, t-shirts and trainers (**please ensure girls have additional socks, as they cannot wear tights in PE**). PE kits should be brought to school on Mondays and remain in school all week (please ensure that your child's kit and the rest of their uniform is clearly marked with their name).

PSHE

In this curriculum area, we address the children's personal, social, health and economic learning. We will be making New Year's resolutions; reflecting on our strengths and setting goals for self-improvement. We will continue to contribute to the life of the school by making suggestions and receiving feedback from our class School Council and Green Team representatives. Finally, we will be focusing on emotional literacy. This will give children the opportunity to recognise and discuss the range of emotions they may feel at different times and explore strategies for dealing with them constructively, particularly negative feelings, whilst ensuring they understand that it is normal for them to feel such emotions. They will also spend time thinking about how they can use this knowledge to understand the behaviours and feelings of their peers.

RE

Your child will start the spring term learning about the importance of books in our lives, focusing especially on the Bible and its role in helping us to understand our role as members of God's family. Your child will then move on to explore "Thanksgiving", and how we give praise and give thanks to God within the Mass.

Music

Music will be taught by our music specialist Mr Dixon and our lessons will take place on Fridays. Your child will have the opportunity to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs, chants and rhymes and by experimenting with and combining sounds, using a variety of musical instruments.

In addition to these subjects, your child will also have an opportunity to develop his/her speaking and listening skills and their social skills on a regular basis.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any of the information in this letter; or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available at the end of the day to answer quick questions, however appointments should be made via the school office to discuss any lengthier matters.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Miss Anderson

(Elizabeth Class Teacher)