



Dempsey Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another exciting school year! I would like to introduce myself as your child's class teacher, Mr Law. I am privileged to have the support of Mrs Wilson, who is a very experienced teaching assistant, this year in Dempsey Class. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the curriculum content your child will be studying over the next half term, as well as of their 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 of these curriculum areas, please support and encourage them to read aloud at home every night and to practice their times tables facts every day, as well as rehearsing mental maths strategies regularly. Your child will receive a maths target card along with a leaflet containing ideas for exercises, which can be completed to help them progress in their targeted areas of learning.

Science

This half term, your child will be learning about the topic 'Forces'. In this unit your child will apply their knowledge of a variety of forces to explore the laws of motion. They will explore the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces. They will also explore how some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Across their study of this topic, your child will be encouraged to develop their skills at working scientifically. This includes: planning different types of scientific enquiry to answer questions; identifying scientific evidence to support ideas; reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, and using these to evaluate patterns. Your child will continue to develop their understanding of how to plan and carry out fair tests.

RE

In the topic 'Ourselves' your child will be taking time to develop a deeper awareness of who they are and to acknowledge that each person is made in the likeness of God. They will learn that we have all been gifted with unique God-given qualities and that it is important to appreciate and celebrate these differences in others. Your child will reflect upon God's role as a supporting figure in their life, teaching them to use their wonderful gifts and qualities for the service of others.

Furthermore this half term, your child will also learn about a key Jewish festival: Passover. They will learn how Passover is celebrated in Judaism and the importance of remembrance in the Jewish faith. Finally, they will explore parallels between Christianity and Judaism, identifying and learning about shared values between the two faiths.

History/Geography

This half term, your child will be learning about World War Two and the rebuilding programme of Britain from 1945. In this exciting topic, your child will be using primary and secondary sources to understand the impact the Second World War had on British civilians, from The Blitz to rationing and the political fall-out that followed.

Your child will have the opportunity to discover the significant changes in the way that Britain was governed at the end of the war and will be able to take on the role of Churchill or Atlee themselves in devising a manifesto for power, before taking part in our very own House of Commons debate.

Finally, your child will be given an overview of the way in which the British Empire changed following the Second World War and the subsequent countries that gained independence as a result.

DT

In DT this half term your child will be learning about the process of baking bread. This unit provides an opportunity to develop children's understanding of, and skills in, working with food through a range of activities related to bread products. In addition, they will gain knowledge and understanding from exploring ingredients and draw upon this knowledge when designing and making their own bread. They will use a range of skills, techniques and basic food tools when making their bread, taking account of appropriate safety and hygiene issues.

Computing

This half term your child will be studying 'Coding'. This topic will enable your child to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs. They will learn to design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems. They will also work towards solving problems by decomposing them into smaller parts, as well as using repetition in programs for various forms of input and output.

Southwark Music Service

This half term years 5 + 6 will be working with staff from Southwark Music Services, who will be running music sessions in school on Thursdays. During these sessions your child will be learning how to play the recorder. Year 5 children will play the descant recorder while Year 6 children will play the treble recorder. The sessions will involve your child initially listening and responding to a range of notes then leading to them exploring and performing a range of complex musical sequences. The sessions will improve your child's musical competency, developing their understanding of pitch, tempo, rhythm, rhyme and composition, as well as their physical co-ordination.

We hope you will encourage your children to embrace this great opportunity by partaking fully in the sessions and making the most of this enjoyable experience. In addition to these sessions, your child will have the opportunity to take part in weekly music sessions with the school's specialist music teacher Mr Dixon.

MFL

In French this half term, your child will be exploring the topic 'Bon appétit, bonne santé' and will be learning about healthy eating. They will continue to apply the vocabulary they have learnt in previous years, as well as learning new vocabulary consisting of nouns, verbs, adjectives and conjunctions. They will make comparisons between French, English and other languages they know. Your child will follow a strategic approach to phoneme/grapheme work to develop their reading skills and continue to develop their pronunciation and fluency when speaking.

PE

This half term your child will be taking part in outdoor P.E. every Tuesday in which they will be learning and developing their basketball skills including: passing, shooting and dribbling. They will learn the rules of basketball and have the opportunity to put both skills and rules into practice with basketball matches against their peers.

In addition, your child will also have indoor PE every Wednesday in which they will be learning a range of dance techniques. In this unit your child will focus on improving the quality of their movement and their ability to adapt their dance skills in response to different stimulus. Working as a group, they will plan and perform sequences of contrasting actions and speeds, and develop flow by linking actions smoothly.

Your child will also partake in football development lessons with Mr. Dines, our sports coach, and will therefore need a full PE kit for this on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their full outdoor PE kit for all lessons, ensuring that all items of clothing are clearly marked with their full name and their class name.

Homework

Your child will continue to 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 must complete a weekly reading journal entry. These will be due back on a day specified by myself and recorded in their homework diary which they have already received.

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 sentence book. We will be giving your child different spelling strategies in school which they can apply at home.

Routines

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time by the Government's 'free fruit for schools scheme'. Children are still permitted to bring a piece of fruit from home each day if desired.

It is important that your child brings their school water bottle, full, to school each day. If your child does not have a school water bottle, they are available from the school office for £1.50. Please ensure any money 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. Please remember to check your child's school bag for any letters which may require parental permission.

Finally, it would be greatly appreciated, if those parents/carers collecting children in years 5 + 6 at the end of the day, could please leave the ramp by the gate clear, and stand behind the wall – to facilitate an efficient and safe dismissal.

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 Law
Dempsey Class Teacher