



Dempsey Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another half term, I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the exciting curriculum content your child will be studying during the second half of the autumn term.

English and Maths

Your child will continue to explore and learn about a variety of different subject areas in their daily English and Maths lessons. 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, as well as rehearsing mental maths strategies and times tables facts. Your child will be bringing home their 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

During this half term, your child will continue learning about the topic 'Forces'. They will continue to explore the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces as well as exploring further how some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Whilst they study the topic of Forces, your child will further 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

This term your child will be studying 'Life Choices.' Through this unit, the children will recognise the importance of life experiences such as friendship, and will learn the importance of commitment, faithfulness and dedication. They will make links to show how feelings and beliefs affect their own and others' quality of care and commitment towards each other.

In our other topic of the term - 'Hope' - your child will develop their appreciation that gifts, given and received, are a sign and expression of love. They will recognise that Advent is a time to appreciate the love in our lives and prepare to celebrate love becoming a reality

through the birth of Jesus. Your child will learn that Christians celebrate the gift of Jesus, who was given by God as a sign and expression of God's love. This is a wonderful topic to lead us through the Advent period.

History

This half term your child will continue to learn about the impact that the Second World War had upon the lives of people around the world and how this impacted on the rebuilding of Britain. In the 70th anniversary year of both the *Windrush* generation and the formation of the NHS, your child will be able to explore how these two momentous occasions helped rebuild Britain after the end of World War 2.

Your child will explore the migration of people from Caribbean countries; understand why they made this decision and what opportunities they had when they arrived in Britain. They will also explore why the NHS was necessary after WW2 and how this creation helped improve the lives of post-war British citizens.

Art

This term in art, the pupils will be exploring the topic of 'Journeys' themed around contemporary, abstract art. The children will have the opportunity to critique and analyse the artwork of different artists, as well as developing their own artistic skills through a variety of different techniques. They will conclude the topic by producing their own, contemporary work, themed on the Nativity that will incorporate the skills and ideas that they have explored through the term.

Computing

This half term your child will be continuing their study of 'Coding'. As programmers, they will continue to design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, at a more challenging level. They will also be learning the importance of: using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognising acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and identifying a range of ways to report concerns about content or contact when needed.

Southwark Music Service

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

We hope you will encourage your children to make the most of 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 school music sessions with the school's specialist music teacher Mr Dixon.

MFL

In French this half term, your child will be taught by a specialist French Teacher from St Michael's Catholic College. They will continue to apply the vocabulary learnt in years 3 and 4 and they will learn new vocabulary for music, exploring patterns and sounds of language. They will continue to develop pronunciation and fluency when speaking and will listen to stories and sing along with traditional French songs.

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 football skills including: ball control, passing, shooting, tackling and goal keeping. The pupils will also be taught tactical elements of the sport such as positioning, formations and football strategy as well as taking on all encompassing drills and five-a-side matches.

Your child will also have indoor PE every Wednesday and will be exploring dances from different cultures, including Celidh dancing, Bhangra dancing (from India) and the tango (from Argentina). The children will be performing dances using a range of movement patterns as well as choreographing and performing their own routines using the skills taught within the sessions.

Your child will also partake in football development lessons with David 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.

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.

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.

Thank you for your support in this area, particularly with helping your child recognise and build on their feedback each week.

Routines

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time. 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 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