

McAuley Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of the second half of the autumn term. I hope you have had a very relaxing half-term break and that you and your child are looking forward to the exciting half term ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the wonderful new topics your child will be studying in the coming half term, as well as to provide you with some key information about the day to day routines and procedures that will support your child in his/her learning.

English and Maths

As they did last half term, your child will take 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 for a minimum of twenty minutes each evening and practise their target times table every day as well as supporting them in their weekly spelling practice. Furthermore, to help your child develop their comprehension skills please support them in making an entry in their reading journal once a week; please remember to record a comment in your child's reading journal to help us monitor their progress. To ensure that books are changed regularly and are available when your child needs to read, please support your child in bringing their reading books and journal to school every day.



Your child will also receive a maths target card in the coming weeks and a leaflet containing ideas for exercises that can be completed to help them make progress in the targeted areas. Please support your child by working through their targets on a regular basis. In addition, your child will shortly be given an individual log in for the maths online revision program 'Mathletics'. Please encourage your child to utilise the online Mathletics revision programme at home using their personal log in to give them access to maths revision activities specifically set by myself to support your child's learning in mathematics.

Science

Following a very successful topic on forces and magnets last half term our attention now turns to biology and the topic: 'Animals including Humans'. Your child will have the opportunity to learn about the functions of the different parts of the digestive system in humans including the teeth, oesophagus, stomach, the small intestine and the large intestine. They will investigate – through practical investigation – the functions of the different types of teeth and how the stomach helps to break down food in order to aid digestion. Finally, your child will learn about food chains and the role within food chains of producers, consumers, predators and prey. They will also have the opportunity to research food chains of their own. Throughout our topic there will be an equal focus upon teaching your child key scientific subject knowledge and vocabulary and key scientific enquiry skills including: being able to record their findings using labelled diagrams; to be able to identify the correct type of enquiry to answer a question; to be able to set up a comparative test; to be able to use written explanations to report on findings from an enquiry and to be able to use evidence to support their findings.

RE

In the topic of promises your child will learn about the topic of 'Promises.' They will have the opportunity to reflect upon the different groups that they belong to both inside and outside of school and the rules, rewards and challenge of being part of these different social groups. Furthermore, they will learn about the sacrament of Baptism, and why this is such an important step in a person's life and relationship with God. They will learn about the order of the Baptismal service, the key symbols associated with Baptism, the role of both the parents and God Parents in the spiritual development of a child and reflect upon what it means for them personally to let the light of God shine through them in their day to day lives.

We will also learn about Judaism this half term and the focus will be on special places. Your child will learn about the synagogue as the Jewish place of worship. They will focus on how to recognise a synagogue, the key features of inside a synagogue and how the synagogue is at the centre of the community.

As part of our RE learning this half term, the children will be focusing on 'Visitors'. We will explore the concept of visitors and the joys and demands they may bring. In addition, we will reflect on the ways in which the Church prepares for the coming of God into our world and Christmas and make Advent promises in preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term, your child will be learning about a range of different topics to support their emotion wellbeing, their hygiene and safety. To begin, your child will learn about how to be safe around fireworks to ensure they can enjoy Bonfire night safely. They will also learn about what it means to be a good friend and this learning will support this year's Anti-Bullying week focus, 'Choose Respect'. Later in the term, your child will learn about dental hygiene and how to look after their teeth correctly.

Geography

This half-term we will be learning about Europe. Your child will learn how to locate Europe on a world map, and identify European countries. We will then research and find out information about specific European countries, including the foods eaten, language spoken and important traditions.

Art

Our focus in art for this half term is 'Journeys' and the key skill children will focus on this half term is collage. We will look at local journeys by doing walks around our local area and explore ways in which we can express them through collage. Further to this, we will be studying famous artwork which illustrates the nativity and we will create pieces of art based around this theme.

Computing

In computing your child will be continuing the excellent work that they have been doing this term upon coding and computer programming. Building upon the skills that they developed last half term, your child will be learning how to create 'loops' when coding a variety of different programmes in order to improve the efficiency of their coding skills. Furthermore, they will learn how to create 'nest loops' in order to create repeating patterns to solve puzzles, complete problems and to create their very own artwork using code.



MFL

In French this half-term, your child will listen to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding to stories, songs and participating in vocabulary building games. Your child will explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. They will engage in basic conversations developing their ability to ask and answer questions.



P.E.

This half term your child will be taking part in outdoor P.E. every Monday and indoor P.E. every Tuesday. Our topic for Indoor PE this half-term is 'dance'. Your child will create their own dance routines using a range of stimuli and accompaniments such as images and props. Your child will practise their dance routines and will have an opportunity to perform their dance routines to their classmates.



In Outdoor PE your child will be developing their skills and understanding in football. In this unit your child will learn how to control, dribble and pass a ball. They will also develop their attacking and defending skills, and learn more about the different roles in a football team, included the role of a goalkeeper. The children will then put all of these skills into practise by playing in a Year 3/4 Football Tournament!

In addition to this, your child will be partaking in football development lessons with David Dines, our part time sports coach, and will also need their full PE kit for this on Friday. Please ensure they have their full Outdoor PE and Indoor PE kit for all lessons, ensuring that all items of clothing are clearly marked with their full name and their class name in order to avoid loss and minimise the need for costly replacements.

Southwark Music Service

This term years 3 and 4 will be working with staff from Southwark Music services, who will be running music sessions in school on **Tuesdays**. During these sessions the children will be learning how to play a range of percussion instruments including samba drums, to create Brazilian carnival rhythms. The sessions will involve them initially listening and responding to a range of notes then leading to them exploring and performing a range of complex sequences. The sessions will improve the children's musical competency, developing their understanding of pitch, tempo, rhythm and rhyme and composition as well as developing their physical co-ordination. The sessions demonstrate the value of diversity, increases team spirit and harmony while developing motivation and a sense of achievement. We hope you will encourage your children to make the most of this great opportunity.

Your child will also take part in weekly music lessons with our specialist music teacher, Mr Dixon, where they will learn to use their voices to sing expressively and experiment with instruments to create and combine sounds.

Homework

Your child will receive English, maths, spelling and sentence homework on a weekly basis. Additional homework may be set at different times where it complements or supports work in a range of subjects across the curriculum.



Homework will be given out on a Thursday and is expected back on a Monday. Spellings are given out on a Tuesday and are expected back on a Monday. Sentences books are given out on a Wednesday and are expected back on a Monday. Reading journals are given out on a Monday and are expected back on a Thursday.

Tuesday: Spellings sent home

Wednesday: Sentences books sent home

Thursday: Homework is sent home. Reading journals are due in

Monday: Reading journals are sent home. Spellings, sentence books and homework are due in

Please support your child in managing this important part of their learning by monitoring their progress in completing their work to the best of his/her ability and within the designated time.

Routines

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time. Your child is 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. Finally, please remember to check your child's school bag regularly for any letters which may require parental permission.

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

Thank you for your support.

Miss Allen
McAuley Class Teacher