

Joseph Class—Year 4



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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are looking forward to another great term of exciting learning. Thank you for all of your lovely cards and gifts- they were very much appreciated by myself and Ms Raphael.

At the start of a new term it is useful to know about our year group's routines and curriculum information. Our new main topic this term is 'Misty Mountain, Winding River' with a trip linked to this topic. More details on this to follow!

As always, if you have any concerns, queries or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me at the end of the school day. Alternatively, if you feel you need a longer discussion, please make an appointment to meet with me.

Thank you for your continued support,

Ms Olaitan

(Joseph Class Teacher)

What We're Learning

English

At the beginning of this half term, we will read '*Tar Beach*' by Faith Ringgold. Our SPaG focus for this half-term will be clauses and speech punctuation, and your child will incorporate these features when writing their own versions of the story. By the end of this half-term, we will move to non-fiction writing, and link to our main project (more information overleaf.) Your child will learn about diary writing and they will write an entry about a river trip.

Maths

This half-term, we will continue with our learning on '*Multiplication*' and '*Division*'. Your child will learn methods for multiplying and dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. Following this, they will use this knowledge to help them when working with fractions. They will begin by recapping their knowledge of fractions from Year 3 by consolidating their understanding of the different parts of a fraction, and using this knowledge to compare fractions.

We have begun to prepare for the upcoming Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) that your child will complete in June 2023. Your child will complete weekly practice tests in school, and I will monitor your child's progress to support them ahead of the check.

R.E.

This half-term, your child will study the topics, '*Journeys*' and '*Sikhism*'. In '*Journeys*', your child will learn about how the experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. They will learn about how the Christian life is about journeying with Christ and sharing his way of life. During our topic on '*Sikhism*,' your child will learn the importance of the Gurdwara as a place Sikhs can come together as a community and how it and their activities there demonstrate their core values.



Main Project- Geography — ‘Misty Mountain, Winding River’

This half-term, your child will learn about the journey of a river, uses of a river and rivers of the world. They will then learn about mountain types and mountains in the UK, and further afield.

Science

Your child will study ‘*States of Matter*’. They will learn about solids, liquids and gases and their characteristic properties. They will observe how materials change state as they are heated and cooled, and learn key terminology.

Computing

Your child will continue to develop their coding skills this half-term, developing their existing skills in writing algorithms of code. They will also have the opportunity to experiment with how code can be used to make music.

Music

Your child will continue their weekly Music lessons with Mr Dixon, our specialist Music teacher, this half-term. They will explore cyclical patterns and rounds during their new topic.

D. T.

Your child will study the topic, ‘*Functional and Fancy Fabrics*’ this half-term. They will learn about the significant designer, William Morris. They will learn techniques for decorating fabric, including block printing.

P.E.

This half-term, your child will begin weekly PE sessions on **Thursday**. Our session will be run by an LPN coach.

M.F.L (Modern Foreign Language)

This half-term, our French sessions will be taught by Miss Slattery, McAuley Class’ teacher. Your child will continue to learn basic words and phrases, and develop their confidence when conversing in French.

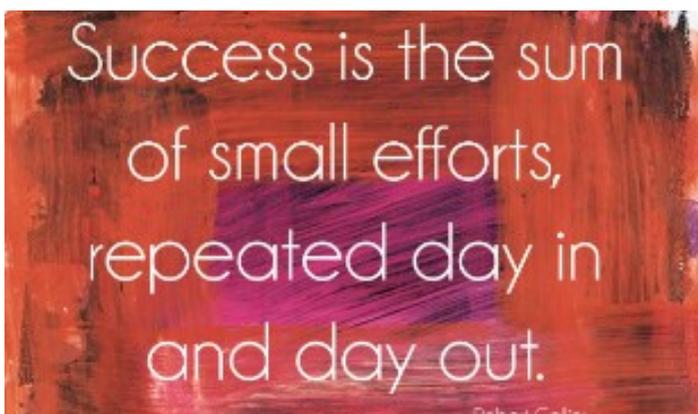
Key Information & Reminders

- ◆ For the duration of the Spring Term, Joseph will take part in **Outdoor PE** on **Thursdays**. Please ensure your child comes to school at the start of the week with their PE kit.
- ◆ Weekly Spelling and Times Tables Tests will continue to take place on a **Monday**. Your child's scores will be recorded in the back of their reading record every week— please continue to monitor these.
- ◆ Please ensure your child brings their water bottle everyday to school—think of their water bottle as part of their uniform!
- ◆ The cold weather continues! Please ensure your child wears a jumper and coat to school every day. If they wear gloves, hats or scarves, please ensure they are clearly labelled.
- ◆ As we have begun preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check, please continue to support your child at home with practising using a PC or iPad. Use the link sent following last half- term's Coffee Morning. If you need any support with this, please let me know.

Dates for Your Diary

- ⇒ **Thursday (from Thursday 12th January) – PE Lessons**
- ⇒ **Thursday 19th January—3:30– 8:30pm Pupil Progress Parents' Evening**

*(Please make an appointment when the form is sent via ParentMail)



Ms Olaitan's Top Tips!

1. **DEAR**— Drop Everything And Read! Reading every single day opens your mind; broadens and strengthens your mind and also helps with your reading skills. So it is essential to read everyday.
2. **Times Tables**— You must practise your times tables, and corresponding division facts in order to develop instant recall. This means the more you practise, the better you get.
3. **Spellings**— Spelling is a fundamental skill, but it takes time and practice to get the rules right. So it is essential to practise your spelling words daily. For tricky words, remember to start by sounding out the words and breaking the word into parts.
4. **Little and Often!** Remember, if you add a little and do this often by practising your times table and spellings daily, the little will become great.
5. **Try, and try again** —Sometimes you may get things wrong but mistakes will always be part of your learning process and that is OK. Hold your head up, be proud. Try again, and again, and again because every accomplishment comes with the decision to try!