



P.P.S. Willow Class

January 2024

Extreme Earth / Macbeth, 'In thunder, lightning or rain'

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school for the first term of 2024. As always, it is going to be a very busy time with plenty of exciting learning opportunities on offer to the children.

Our first topic of this term will be 'Extreme Earth' - a geography-based topic, focusing on the science behind, as well as the impact of volcanos and earthquakes.

In the latter half of the term we will be discovering the work of William Shakespeare. We will be looking at him as a 'British Icon' and the impact he, and other Britons, have had on society.

In addition to our work on physical geographical processes, the children will also be exploring time zones around the world, looking at how/why these are formed and calculating times across different countries we have studied.

During this half term, children will be researching and writing about a significant historical figure of their choosing—we are fascinated to see who they pick! This will be a great opportunity for pupils to explore their

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.

own interests and apply some of the skills they have learnt in English and history.

As part of the topic, 'In thunder, Lightning or rain', children will become better acquainted with British icons, and be given the opportunity to write to different organisations to help improve Britain.

In Science lessons, children will study natural selection and consider how adaptation has affected the evolution of different species over time. The children will continue to work scientifically as they plan enquiries, gather data and use comparative and fair tests to answer their questions. The children will also be learning about electricity, including building circuits and creating circuit diagrams.

R.E. lessons in the first half term will be based on the key question: How does Tawhid create a sense of belonging in the Muslim community? By basing our learning around questions, we hope to engage the children in some theological and philosophical discussions which will really make them challenge themselves and gain a deeper understanding. The second half term will explore the question, What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?

In Computing lessons, pupils will be using Scratch (a computer programme) to develop their ability to code. In the first module, they will learn how to make a game with variables, including a points system. In the second module, they will be focusing on data and information in spreadsheets.



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P.E. lessons will allow children to explore strategy and positioning in games. There will be a particular emphasis on children evaluating and reflecting on their own and others' performance. The children will be participating in gymnastics and invasion games during the first half term.

Later, in Dance, Children will be developing controlled movement in response to rhythms. As always, children will need their P.E. kits in school and enough suitable clothing to be able to take part in outdoor physical activity.

Art and Design lessons will focus on painting and mixed media, inspired by the work of Lawrence Weiner Ai WeiWei.

In Design and Technology, children will planning ways to solve problems by creating a product using pulleys and gears. Later in the term, they will apply their electrical knowledge from science to design and make a circuit involving switches for a given purpose.

Of course, English and Maths will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above.

Maths this term will consolidate children's ability to calculate with all four operations and apply these skills to decimals, fractions, ratios and percentages. Children will develop their ability to measure accurately and read a variety of measuring scales.

English lessons will encourage pupils to develop their writing skills and hone their SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). In reading lessons, we are helping the children provide more in-depth answers to higher level questions, particularly those involving inference skills.

Spellings will continue to follow the National Curriculum patterns along with words from the statutory list.

Times tables will be tested on a regular basis and we will be monitoring children's progress with recalling key facts. Times Tables Rockstars is a superb resource for children to use at home too:

<https://trockstars.com/>

We are really looking forward to another exciting term ahead with year 6. As SATS approach in the not too distant future, we are eager to get the children to achieve their very best whilst maintaining their enjoyment of school. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk about your child's learning, please feel free to catch me at the school gate or make an appointment at the office.

Rob Neary (Class Teacher)
Oz Dallyn (Teachings Assistant)