



P.P.S. Elm Class

January 2023
Spring Term

Rivers

Dear Parents,

Spring term promises to be another exciting time with a wide range of learning experiences on offer, both in and out of the classroom .

Our first **geography** unit of work will help children to understand what rivers are, how they are formed and some of their key features. As part of this learning, children will consolidate atlas skills they covered last term and make links with our previous geography topic of 'South America'. We are hoping to arrange a trip to the River Arun to develop children's understanding of rivers in our locality too.

Taking our learning outdoors will continue to be a priority this term. Elm Class's 'Forest School' sessions have already begun and the children will be engaging in a number of activities from orienteering to shelter building (not to mention slurping the odd mug of hot chocolate!).

In **science**, children will learn about the properties and changes that occur in different materials. Children will explore how solutions and mixtures differ and conduct a range of experiments to further their understanding. As part of the science curriculum, we endeavour to help children better understand to what it means to 'work scientifically', including controlling variables and repeating tests.

A varied and challenging term of **P.E.** awaits Elm Class this term: children will be building on the gymnastics lessons they had during the autumn term and working on different apparatus. Later in the term, they will focus on tennis and other net and wall sports. Throughout all P.E. lessons, children will be taught how to evaluate and improve performance. We will also discuss the importance of sport and activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

In **history** we will be learning about the Ancient Greek civilisation. Our learning will be guided by the question : How did Ancient Greece sustain a successful civilisation? As part of this, children will learn about the military success of Greeks; how different city states organised their government; and the importance of cultural and philosophical ideas during this era. Crucially, children will begin to make links between other ancient civilisations they have learnt about including the Romans and Egyptians., helping them construct a coherent historical narrative.

Computing lessons will develop children's ability to navigate the online world safely. They will continue to use Office365 to share, save and create documents for specific purposes. Children will also code 'Micro-Bits' to develop their understanding of physical computing. Later in the term, children will begin to learn about databases and how to input, interpret and present information.

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.



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'Ancient Greece'

Art lessons will link in with our historical work and children will use clay to sculpt mini-versions of the pottery produced during the Ancient Greek era. During these lessons, children will also observe the work of Tony Cragg and discuss how sculpture differs from other forms of artwork.

Design and technology lessons will explore food from different cultures. Children will also consolidate their knowledge of seasonality and put this learning into practice in the school allotments.

In **R.E.** lessons, the children learn about the Gospel texts from the Bible and think about how Jesus might act in different situations and what this might mean for Christians today. They will also discover what 'Salvation' means to Christians, led by the question: What did Jesus do to save human beings? Throughout our R.E. lessons, we are mindful of the diversity of beliefs in our school and ensure that everybody's ideas are respected.

In **French** lessons, children will learn to say the alphabet in French and continue to gain confidence in using numbers. They learn how to understand and use names for places in their local area and give directions. During the second half of the term, the children will use both new and familiar language to describe a painting. The painting used here is *Scène de plage* by Degas. Children use their knowledge to write and perform their own poetry inspired by the painting

As part of the **P.S.H.E.** curriculum, children will learn about dealing with success and failure and recognising the importance of perseverance. Lessons will also involve discussions about emotions and how we might be able to manage these in

different situations. Later in the term, we will focus on Sex and Relationships Education (S.R.E.) so that children understand changes that occur in the body during puberty. More details about these lessons will be sent out to parents and carers closer to the time.

Children will be building on the guitar lessons they had last year as part of their musical education. Pete York, an instrumental specialist, will be encouraging the children to work on composition, listening activities and performance.

Homework will continue to be set weekly. Arguably the most important part of this homework is the need for children to read at home at least five days out of seven. The overall effect of regular reading on children's education cannot be understated as it has a knock-on effect on many other subjects in the curriculum. Please ensure your child completes this in addition to the sheets sent home.

Of course, **English** and **Maths** will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Times tables will be practised in school regularly and tested on Wednesdays. Spellings will be tested on a Monday. If you would like any additional information about this term's learning, please do not hesitate to ask us.

If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to me, please feel free to make an appointment at the office.

Many thanks,

Rob Neary (Class teacher)

Mrs Diaper (Teaching assistant)