

Grange View C.E



First School

Welcome to this half terms Topic
Information letter for Willow
and Chestnut Class

**Mrs Timmins, Mrs Miller
& Mrs Metcalfe**



Marvelous

Mega structures

Autumn Half Term (2)



Numeracy

Our key focus this half term the children will be multiplication, division, length and perimeter. The children will be increasing their fluency of multiplication and division, but also looking into problem solving and reasoning when answering their questions. They will learn mental and formal written methods so they can decide what is the most efficient method to calculate the answers. We will continue to be focusing lots on our times tables to ensure that we are really fluent with our times tables up to 12 x 12. We ask that you continue to use Times Table Rock Stars at home to help with their skills.

Art/DT - Making mega structures & architectural sketches

In art the children will be sketching using architectural techniques their favourite mega structures from around world and then using water colour paints to add colour and shading.

Children will also research famous architects and look at the buildings from around the world. We will be considering what an architect has to do in their job and why is it so important.



After studying, sketching and learning about a range of mega structures around the world, the children will use their knowledge of materials to choose appropriate equipment and resources to plan, produce and then evaluate their own model mega structure. Their mega structure will have to fit a design brief that they will be given. They will be presenting their final model to the class.

Music - Ukulele Thursdays

As part of our Music connections, all children in Year 3 and 4 have learning to play the ukulele this year. To ensure each class gets a full hour of learning, we do alternative weeks for Chestnut and Willow. We currently can play a few chords on our ukuleles.



Literacy

Reading

During this half term children will read in a variety of situations throughout the week at school in a shared whole class session, in a small group guided session, one to one with an adult and also independently. The children will look at a range of different poetry as well as a selection of non fiction texts to support our materials topic.

Writing

The children will write in the following genres;

At the start of the term we will be exploring different types of poetry and the children will be creating their own poems based on the terms themes and weather. We will also be using the materials theme as a vehicle to revisit our Non Fiction work and create highly detailed, descriptive and well written informative texts.

Each week the children will have the opportunity to develop their own writing style during a creative 'big writing' session. The children will be given a specific topic focus then given time to create their own piece of extended independent writing - using their target cards to know what they need to include to move onto their next level. They will learn to improve their sentence structure, grammar and punctuation as well as continuing to work through their spellings in a weekly test.

Speaking & Listening

Children will encounter a variety of speaking and listening opportunities. Presenting information they have collected to their class and using clarity and confidence to say their play lines for our 'Stable Manners' play.

MFL - French - Trois Petit Cochons

As part of their language learning the children will be reading the animated French story of Three little pigs. Throughout the term they will learn phrases, sequence events, match words and pictures and construct simple sentences in French.



PE - Team games Thursday, Friday

As the weather is now changing, the children will be doing PE inside based on around team games. This will involve the class working together to win short and fun games, improving their communication and sporting skills.



Swimming is taught by qualified swimming coaches at Morpeth Leisure Centre every Wednesday afternoon, the children are always supervised by school staff.

Geography, History

The children will go on a trip to the Hancock to conclude their Stone Age work and then kick start their understanding of mega structures looking at the bridges and impressive buildings across the Tyne. Back in school they will learn how to chronologically order changes you can identify to a local area from studying different age maps.



Additionally they will learn about the role of architects throughout the ages and impressive worldwide mega structures and famous wonders.

PSHE

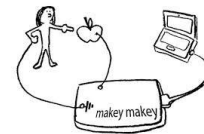
The theme this half term is 'Getting on and Falling out'.

During circle time discussions they will be discussing and determining how to be a good friend. They will also learn how to detect triggers for anger and how to manage it as well as become peaceful problem solvers to help their role as playground buddies.

We will also be thinking in year 4 about giving blood and organ donation.

ICT - E safety, Scratch, makey makey and excel

At the start of the term the children will be given a recap on the importance of safety, reporting incidents and staying safe online. Most importantly they will be reminded of keeping their passwords private, and not sharing personal information online.



This term the children will be extending their knowledge of control and programming by using a program called Scratch to create series of instructions to make things happen on screen. The children will also be using our Beebots to programme them into moving around a scene. Thinking about the instructions they are giving their beebot and how they are programming them to do what they would like.

We also use technology to present our topic findings on apps on the iPads.

Science - Material properties

When looking at the different mega structures around the world the children will be considering what materials these mega structures are made of and why they have been chosen. They will be learning lots of properties of materials, being able to compare, contrast, sort and classify them.



RE - People of God



In RE we will be learning about God's people and what it is like to follow God. We will focus on the stories of Noah and Abraham.

As Christmas is approaching fast we will be talking about this Christian festival in detail and practicing our Nativity play!

Homework

Reading - Children will be bringing home their home reading books during the week. It would be helpful if you could either write or sign the book to say you have heard them read, it helps us to avoid repeat reading the same pages. *Group Reading* takes place each week with their class teacher and TA, the children will be given a set number of pages to read for their next weekly session. Please sign their book once they have read them. Additionally the children may bring home a third book that they have taken out of the library on our Friday visit.

Spellings - Children will be given differentiated spellings to learn for their weekly spelling test on a Friday morning. Please help your child as much as possible learn these words as they will help with their confidence and fluency as both a reader and writer.

Maths Homework - There is a big focus currently on times tables and being fluent with them. Therefore the homework in KS2 is that children need to access Times Tables Rock Stars at home. They each have their own log ins and should be using it to practise at home. The program automatically sets questions at their pace and level. We ask that the children focus on the Studio and Sound check games on the app. Please let us know if you have any difficulties accessing this at home.

Thanks for your help and continued support

Swimming

We would be grateful if you could please ensure your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name. This is especially helpful when we go swimming, as there are occasions when clothes do get mixed up, or are left in the changing rooms. Could parents also ensure they have their swimming hats, and pierced ears need to have the earrings removed. If you are available to help any **Wednesday afternoon** with swimming please get in touch, the more helpers the better!

Forest School / PE Kits

Willow Class will be using the forest area every Tuesday afternoon and Chestnut every Thursday afternoon, we have waterproof trousers which we provide for each child but please ensure that their wellies and warm winter coat /hat / gloves are in school so that are comfortable.

We are intending to do PE on Thursday (Willow) and Friday (Chestnut) afternoons, so please ensure that they have their PE Kits as well as appropriate footwear in school on these days.

Home Time

If you need to change the usual arrangements for picking up your child from school, please let school know as soon as possible. As you will understand we cannot allow children to leave the school premises unless we have permission from parents or carers.