

# Grange View C.E



## First School

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

**Mrs Timmins and Mrs Metcalfe**



# Mysterious Mayans

Spring Half Term (1)

## Numeracy;

Our key focus this half term - Children will be rounding and comparing numbers, revisiting addition and subtraction, reading timetables and interpreting data, they will learn about area and perimeter and both name and describe 2D and 3D shapes. As part of our target Numeracy work, the children will be applying their maths knowledge to complete mental maths questions at speed.. Additionally, the children will look at the Mayan number system and compare it to ours and Roman Numerals.

## Science - *Healthy and balanced diets*

Our big theme this term is Mysterious Mayans, hence our learning is predominantly focused on the History of the civilization and it's location in the world. However we will be using their food and crops as a vehicle to look at balanced diets and select healthy food choices to design Maya suitable meals.



Within the forest school we will be looking at shelters and dens as well as making feeders for the different wildlife using the Mayan favourite maize.

## Music - *Ukuleles Thursday afternoons*

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 stories during carpet time as well as stories from different cultures linked to our topic and continue to enjoy reading our mini Roald Dahl anthology.

### Writing

The children will write in the following genres; Stories from other cultures and simple poetry. They will learn to improve their sentences particularly focusing on adverbs and appropriate adjectives within sentences, as well as continuing to work through their spellings in a weekly test.

### Speaking & Listening

Children will be presenting information they have collected to their class and through team building activities in Forest School.

## Art / DT - *Frederick Catherwood & hieroglyphics*

We are hoping to have a visiting artist work with us in class this term. However additionally the children will be designing their own Mayan God, recreating hieroglyphs for a special purpose next term and studying other artists.



## PE - Dance and The Showcase!

In preparation for the dance showcase at the end of the Spring term, we will be starting to formulate our own dance sequence over the next few weeks as well as following other routines to get moving in time to the music. Subsequently they will also be practising their gymnastics skills including using the big apparatus, a select few will be representing the school at the Gymnastics festival.



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

## RE - God: David and the Psalms



The children will be looking at the stories of David, discussing the important values including friendship. They will also be reading stories of Christians overcoming their 'Goliaths' and studying the Psalms: using the words and images to explore the nature of God.

## ICT -logo, control and Roamer



To link with their work in Numeracy on right angles and directions, the children will be working in and out of the computer suite to create instructions. These will command an electronic turtle or robot to move around a screen, on a map or draw shapes.

## PSHE



The theme this half term is 'Going for Goals'. During circle time discussions they will be learning how to set themselves targets and success criteria to recognise when they have reached their goals.

## Geography / History

Within our topic the children will study the area of Mexico, considering what they would take their on holiday based on it's climate and where the different settlements were in the area of Mexico.



For their history, they will chronological order and explain events in time as well as research facts about Chichen Itza,, part of which they touched on last term in mega structures work. They will find similarities between the food, housing and clothing of other periods of history such as the stone age and will study their gods, rituals, writing and love of chocolate!!!!!!!

## SPAG skills

SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) has become an increased focus for all schools as part of the new government curriculum. We will be learning a variety of useful tools, language and skills for this each day such as plural endings, what nouns, verbs and conjunctions are and how to use an apostrophe.



## 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 (Year 3 and 4)

We would be grateful if you could please ensure your child's clothes are clearly labeled 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** on a **Thursday** afternoon and **PE** on **Mondays**

**Chestnut Class** will be using the **Forest area** on a **Monday** afternoon and **PE** on **Thursdays**

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 Monday or Thursdays depending on the class, 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.