

Grange View C.E



First School

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

Mrs Timmins and Mrs Metcalfe



Wonderful Waterworld

Spring Half Term (2)

Numeracy:

Our key focus this half term - Children will be multiplying and dividing, looking at fractions and decimals and thinking about time and coordinates. As part of our target Numeracy work, the children are learning written methods for multiplication as well as applying their maths knowledge to solve written maths problems on a Friday. Each morning all the children will also be using their Nintendo DS's which this term will be based on key skills in Brain Academy.

Science - Life cycles

Our big theme this term is Rivers, which provides a great context for explanation writing in Literacy. We will be learning about, investigating and explaining the complicated water cycle - lots of 'tion' spellings to master! To assist in our forest school work later in the term we will be studying lifecycles of frogs, butterflies and dragonflies and explaining their process.



Most excitedly, we will be pond dipping in the forest area later in the term. Let's hope we find lots of living things!

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 explanations and lots of poetry.

Writing

The children will write in the following genres; Explanation texts: explaining how lifecycles and rivers work using connectives. Also reading, performing and innovating a range of poetry. They will continue working on the use of adverbs and openers to start their sentences during target writing work, 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.

ICT -Garage Band and 2animates



The children will be using garage band to create music inspired by water and the water cycle.

To recap and reinforce their learning on lifecycles, the children will be using 2animate to create simple animations of frog and plant lifecycles.

PE - Dance and Gymnastics

In preparation for the dance on Tuesday 31st March, we will be finishing and perfecting our own dance sequence over the next few weeks as well as using the big apparatus for gymnastics.



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

RE - Christianity - Jesus



Throughout this topic the children will be discuss different festivals such as lent and its relevance to Christianity. To study and learn different names for Jesus, ways in which he helped people and how parables teach us things.

MFL -

As part of their language learning the children will be learning useful words and phrases to describe different continents, and the name of their rivers.



The children will also be learning how to describe which is the biggest and identify familiar words in a piece of French writing.

PSHE- 'Good to be me'

During circle time discussions they will be learning how to learn best, what their personality features are and have methods for relaxing and sharing feelings.



During fair-trade fortnight, commencing 24th February, the children will also be discuss and suggesting ways to be a better fair-trade school.

Geography / History

Our main theme is learning about river systems this term. We will be finding out about their features, and following the river Aln from source to mouth on Tuesday 24th March



Additionally they will study how rivers have evolved through the ages, with the invention of water power.

Art/ DT - Making water mills, water colours, Easter Crafts.

As well as rivers, the children will look at canals and water power. Following their work on watermills they will work with a partner to create their own watermill structure using a cog.



Following their river trip, the children will, practice and refine water colour painting to recreate different stages of the river cycle. At the end of term, the children will also be making their annual Easter Egg and Bonnet designs for the parade.

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

Diary Dates:

River trip : Tuesday 24th March

Dance Showcase (letter to follow soon): Tuesday 31st March

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 Thursday morning with swimming please get in touch, the more helpers the better!

Forest School

We are very proud of the developments we have made to our forest area and are now making it a regular learning experience within the weekly timetable.

We have waterproof trousers which we provide for each child but please ensure their wellies and warm winter coat/ hat/ gloves are in school so they are comfortable.



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.