

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



Savage Stone Age

Autumn Half Term (1)

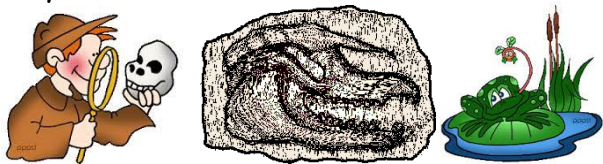
Numeracy:

Our key focus this half term - Children will be understanding place value. They will be learning to order, sequence and compare large numbers. As part of our target Numeracy work, the children will be problem solving and reasoning their answers, trying use full sentences to explain.

Throughout the week the children will also be using Times Tables Rock Stars to improve their times tables knowledge.

Science - *Evolution and Fossils*

Our big theme this term is the stone age which focuses on the new curriculum requirements of pre history, fossils and how there are many wonders on our doorstep! As part of our science topic we will be finding out about evolution and its purpose in survival, as well as studying a range of fossils, shells and dinosaur footprints for how they can teach us about pre history. In the forest we will also be busy pond dipping - categorising and data logging what we find to compare throughout the year.



History: The Stone Age

Our big theme this term is focused on the stone age, as a result we will be learning lots about this long period of pre history and how primitive but yet inventive the civilisation was. This theme will structure a great deal of our topic learning in all areas of the curriculum.



Geography - *map reading, compasses*

As part of Geography we are focussing on the local wonders element, using Google maps in ICT to study Widdrington as our local area, creating our own model version of the village using an online program and learning compass reading to follow maps in the outdoor area. Additionally we will also learn about geological timelines and how they play a role in learning about pre history.

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 set in a historical stone age setting, and a variety of information texts.

Writing

The children will write in the following genres; information texts - using the text features to access, record and present facts as well as historical setting stories. The children will be focusing on making their writing descriptive for the reader, creating atmosphere and suspense. 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. 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 through team building activities.

Music - Thursdays

As part of our Music connections, all children in Year 3 and 4 will be learning to play the Ukulele this year. Our new tutor comes with high praise and is no doubt going to teach us some fantastic skills which we can use to hopefully to another great performance this year!



PE - Games, Dance. Thurs/Friday

Wherever possible (weather dependant) we aim to get outside and continue to practise and build up our ball skills, individually, in small groups and as part of larger team as well as developing some traditional folk dance moves with Celidh dancing to support our local element of the topics study.



Swimming is taught by qualified swimming coaches at Morpeth Leisure Centre every Wednesday afternoon, the children are always supervised by school staff. We will also have Rugby coaching on Monday, so please ensure PE kits are in.

Art/DT - Clay pot making, pottery painting, baking

Children will be busy using the Stone Age theme to create a wide range of artistic creations. They will be studying and replicating cave paintings, creating hand shadow art and using modeled techniques to create their own clay pottery. We will also be having Rainbow pottery come into school for them to paint their own professional pot as well as use DT to create a range of model stone age buildings. As part of our creative sessions the children will also be making their own rock buns and investigating rubbings of trees and leaves in their forest school work.



MFL - French - Moi

As part of their language learning the children will be practising and learning basic skills such as saying numbers, describing themselves and using adjectives in French.



On Thursday 26th September it is European Languages Day, so we will be celebrating it focussing this year on Spain. Watch out for more information about the exciting event in school!

PSHE - New beginnings

The theme this half term is 'New Beginnings' the children will be electing school councilors and learning how to be good playground buddies. We will also be creating a classroom charter together, so we know what is expected of us within the classroom. During circle time discussions they will determine what kind of characters they are and how they can deal with conflicts or problems in class or in the playground.

RE -



In RE we will be learning about God's people and what it is like to follow God. We will do this through the Old and New Testament stories, understanding that these are books made up of chapters and verses. We will focus on the stories of Noah and Abraham.

ICT - E safety, ipad apps, google maps

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, prior to having their school 360 accounts re established and them being able to access work online.



To consolidate our Stone Age work we will be making full use of the iPads and learning how to use a variety of multimedia apps to present facts that they have learnt. Earlier in the term they will be using Google maps to locate and investigate Widdrington and use the different layer features to find things out about its history.

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 and Times Tables - 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 - Children will be given some Maths Homework to complete from Friday afternoon to the following Friday morning. The maths homework is usually linked to the work they have done that week in Numeracy and should be appropriate for them to complete independently. This maths homework will be accessed on School 360, please let us know if you have any difficulties accessing this at home.

Thanks for your help and 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 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.