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April 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Summer Term. We are delighted to be back and hope for more happy sunny days in school! In the meantime, we hope the following will help you understand what your child will be studying over the next few weeks.

This term we are focusing on growing plants. We will be looking at different text genres as we explore the science, health and beauty of plants. This study will help the children understand the importance of plants for food, for our wellbeing, for our health and how we can best nurture them. This exploration will encompass our English, DT and Science lessons.

In **English**, despite the subject matter being plants, the class will still be reading both fiction and non-fiction texts, for example the story 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We will use this opportunity to write instructions and recounts. We will continue to practise our cursive handwriting, ensuring capital letters are used for proper nouns and consistently at the beginning of all sentences. We will also be challenging the children to include powerful adjectives and conjunctions to extend their sentences independently.

In **Maths** we are using the strong place value understanding we've built to now learn about multiplication and division. We will be using pictures, number sentences, word problems and table top activities to demonstrate how these methods can increase (x) or decrease (/) a group of objects. Additionally, we will be learning about simple fractions as well as position & direction. In the second half of the Summer Term we will be moving on to the topics of money and time.

While learning about plants in **Science**, your child will begin to name the parts of flowering plants and trees and will learn the name of different common wild and garden plants and trees.

In **RE**, the class will explore if some Bible stories are more important than others and then, in a study of a Jewish place of worship, we will consider if we need shared special places.

Our **DT** lessons are focused on food technology when the children will have an opportunity to make their own fruit smoothies. After DT we will be moving on to **Art** where they will be using different techniques to create sculptures and 3D shapes out of paper.

For our **Computing** sessions, we will be introducing the children to the term 'data', and showing them how this is used in everyday life.

In **Geography** we will be investigating our local area. We will be studying, following and creating maps of our school and of Cookham. While creating our own maps we will be discussing the features we need to include and the symbols used to represent these.

After geography we will be moving on to **History** where we will be exploring the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. We will be comparing the lives of these monarchs to one another as well as exploring their family trees and the meaning of the word 'heir'.

In **PSHE** we are learning about citizenship and economic wellbeing, discussing how and where we can keep our money safe.

Reading

Thanks to your support with reading at home, many children are changing their reading books regularly and are becoming familiar with a wide range of texts which they read with increasing fluency. It is evident that they are pleased with their success and guided group reading each week is approached with great enthusiasm! In June your child will take part in the phonics screening programme with results reported to you within their end of year report. Please refer to the DfE booklet which you have been sent. Your child's result in this test will be published with their end of year summer report.

Spelling stars

New spelling lists will be issued each week on Spelling Shed. Please help your child to learn to spell these, checking on a regular basis to ensure accuracy. As in the Spring Term, a 'Spelling Star' check will take place in the final week of each term. The list of assessed spellings will be compiled from words learned over the course of the term. These will be posted on Google Classroom for you to access.

Homework

Alongside daily reading, Key Stage One children will be set additional homework tasks on a Thursday, usually involving a short maths and English activity which supports the work covered in class. Homework should be completed and returned to school in the homework folders ready for Tuesday.

<u>P.E.</u>

We will continue to have our P.E. lessons on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon this term. Thank you for bringing your children to school on these days wearing their kit. We will be having an additional dance sessions on a Monday afternoon as we begin our Arts & Culture performance practice. Despite this, please continue to send your child to school in their school uniform on a Monday. Please also ensure your child always has a named water bottle with them every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you require clarification on anything or wish to contact us, please email the school office. We will do our very best to contact you as soon as we are able.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bowater