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Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems unbelievable that we are heading into the Summer Term already. With Arts and Culture Week and Sports Week on the horizon, it is a busy term for us all.

As the weather warms up and children begin to abandon their layers especially jumpers, it would help enormously if all garments could be named please so that they might be returned to their rightful owner. Thank you in advance for your support in this. As before, here is an outline of the curriculum topics we will be covering this term.

Standard Attainment Tests (SATs)

From this academic year, Key Stage 1 SATs are an optional form of assessment which assesses the children's maths, English and grammar skills. As they approach Key Stage 2 and prepare for a more complex curriculum, the SATs papers will provide an integral insight into the skills and knowledge gained over the core subject areas. In addition, they will allow us to assess where we can help close any gaps in their understanding before they hit Year 3. It is for these reasons we will be participating in the 2024 KS1 SATs testing programme this term.

The Key Stage 1 (KS1) information leaflet, which you have been sent, is for parents with a child in Year 2 at primary school. The leaflet provides an overview of the purpose of the optional tests, how they work and how participating schools, of which we are one, may use the results. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-and-2-national-curriculum-tests-information-for-parents>

Should you wish to provide additional support at home, SATs papers are available to download on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials#key-stage-1-past-papers> Continued support, particularly with reading and maths will be extremely valuable not only in the lead up to SATs, but as your child prepares to move into Key Stage 2.

Reading

We cannot stress the importance of daily reading enough. Reading is key to accessing all areas of the curriculum, including maths and science, and the expectation is that your child reads aloud at home to an adult every day, regardless of whether they have read in school. Please do not be concerned about re-reading books. The emphasis is very much on fluency and re-reading a text is an excellent way to improve fluency as your child becomes more and more familiar with the words. The more fluent the reader, the greater the understanding. The children have an incredible, solid understanding of all their phonic sounds and are now focusing on spelling rules within words including using prefixes and suffixes. This is incorporated in the weekly spelling & grammar lessons using our excellent programme Spelling Shed.

The children undertake a weekly guided reading and comprehension task which further develops key reading skills such as inference and sequencing. The development of these skills is fundamental and can only be built upon with questioning. Please ensure that when you read with your child you use the Reading Dogs bookmark given to him/her so you can best utilise the reading time you have together.

Homework

As before, homework will be set on a Monday and sent home in homework folders. This is due in the following Monday. With (optional) SATs approaching, the emphasis will be on reading and maths, with some additional SPaG questions incorporated. Expectations for homework are the same as in the classroom, in that it should be completed neatly in pencil. A weekly spelling list will be set each Wednesday via Spelling Shed, made up of spelling patterns we have covered during the week. Spelling Stars, comprising National Curriculum Year 2 vocabulary and high frequency words (HFW), will be given out at the beginning of each term to be learnt for a test during the last week of term. Please encourage your child to practice these spellings. It will benefit them enormously as they continue up through the years. Again, thank you for your support.

P.E.

As last term, Kingfisher class will have P.E on Monday and Tuesday with Mr. Whittle. In addition, during Term 5 the children will have an extra PE dance lesson in preparation for their Arts & Culture week performance. Please continue to send your child to school in their P.E. kit on these days. This term their PE sessions with Mr. Whittle will focus on athletics. **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit.**

English

We begin the term by exploring a beautiful text set in Venice, titled 'The Glassmakers Daughter'. We will then move on to the book 'Gregory Cool' by Caroline Finch, which is set in Trinidad and Tobago. We will compare Trinidad and Tobago with the UK as our geography this term.

The writing skills covered at this term are as follows:

- Writing sentences using question marks and exclamation marks
- Using a range of connectives, openers and adjectives
- Using varied, appropriate vocabulary
- Using expanded noun phrases
- Similes
- Contractions
- Beginning to use paragraphs, headings and sub-headings to add clarity to writing.
- Spelling words with increasing accuracy.
- Setting description
- Character description
- Using the correct punctuation when writing dialogue.
- Poetry

Maths

The maths skills your child will focus on for the rest of Year 2 are as follows:

- Mass, capacity and temperature
- Fractions
- Time
- Statistics
- Position and direction
- Formal addition and subtraction
- 2 x table
- 5 x table
- 10 x table

Please continue to use and practice times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars. Logins can be found in their reading record.

https://play.ttrockstars.com/?_gl=1*lt1hy5*_ga*MTUwOTY4MzM5My4xNjk5ODIxNjE4*_ga_FYSNH92ZJH*MTcxMzQzMjM0NS4yLjAuMTcxMzQzMjM0NS4wLjAuMA..

The following website is another excellent resource to support a whole range of maths topics:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16>

Science

In Terms 5 and 6, we will be studying plants. To support this topic, we will be growing a variety of plants from seed and observing these over time to see what elements affect their growth and what happens at each stage in the life cycle.

Music

Music is taught throughout the school using the music scheme Charanga. The enquiry question for this term is: How does music make us happy?

R.E.

Our enquiry question for this term is: 'Can stories change people?' We will be exploring the ways that Old Testament and New Testament stories influence readers and listeners and the reasons for the inclusion of stories.

The final R.E. topic of the year will be 'How should you spend the weekend?'

PSHE

This term, our topic is 'It's My Body', during which we will understand that we have control over our bodies and look at ways to keep our bodies healthy. By the end of the topic children should be able to:

- Explain how much sleep they need
- Discuss why exercise is good for them
- Understand they can choose what happens to their bodies
- List healthy snacks
- Know to ask a trusted adult if uncertain about whether something is safe to eat or drink
- Demonstrate hygienic ways to look after their bodies

Computing

Computing this term will focus on online safety. Children will explore the difference between online and offline and understand what information should not be posted online. We will look at techniques for creating a strong password. Children will be taught that permission should be gained from others before sharing images and information about them online and that they have the right to say 'no.' Finally, they will be made aware that not everything they see or read online is true.

Art

This term, our art sessions will focus on painting with primary and secondary colours. We will be mixing mediums, considering composition and creating different textures in our discovery of colour, giving the children the freedom to express themselves creatively.

Geography

Our geography topic this term, as already explained, links to our second text in English, where the setting is Trinidad and Tobago. We will be comparing the islands with the UK, exploring the both human and physical features of each nation. We will then recap what we learned about London before making comparisons with the Port of Spain.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and hope this overview of the next few weeks is useful. As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact either at the end of the day or through email via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Casey & Gill Bailie