

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely Easter break.

This term we will be focusing on being the best purple learners we can be. We will be challenging ourselves, discussing how we can be better learners and understanding what our next steps are. The key question that we will continue to ask ourselves is 'How will I make this piece of work significantly better than the last piece?'

Reading and Phonics

Guided reading sessions will continue in class. Within these sessions, when not working with an adult, the children will be completing more independent reading and comprehension tasks, as well as writing about books in their reading journal. Please continue to support your child with reading at home and encourage them to write what they have read in their reading diary. It would be beneficial for your child to read some pages of their book in their head, then be expected to answer some questions about what has happened.

Phonics/spelling sessions will still take place four times a week.

English

In the first half term we will be continuing our India topic, so written work will be inspired by that. We will be writing all about our school, writing stories set in India and writing descriptions. Now that we have received letters back from our pen-friends in Cumbria, we will also be writing replies to them. Our grammar work will be focused particularly on: the four different sentence types (statement, question, exclamation, command); spelling contractions correctly with an apostrophe (e.g. don't, couldn't); using commas in lists and identifying nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives. For spelling, we will continue to expect the children to spell the common exception words correctly in their writing (these were given out at parents' evenings and there is a copy on the website but please let us know if you need another copy of the list). It would be great if the children could continue to practise these at home.

After the May half term our topic will be 'Habitats' and we will be reading and writing a range of different texts, including poems, stories and non-fiction. Lots of our writing will link to the science work we do.

Maths

We will be focusing on using effective calculation strategies for all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and solving a range of problems. Also, we will continue to learn about money and measures, including mass, capacity, temperature and time. Any practise that the children can do at home relating to money, measures and time is always beneficial - perhaps reading timetables, using measures when cooking from a recipe, or measuring things for a purpose in their room or the garden. We will also be combining our work in science with our maths and carrying out some maths investigations.

ICT

In ICT we will be creating a video about our school using cameras and ipads. We will also be learning about email and contributing to class emails to various people. Alongside our science work, we will also be using ICT to create branching databases.

Science

Our topic will cover animals (including humans) and their habitats. We will look at different local and world habitats and microhabitats, thinking about what animals and plants live there, and how they are suited to the environment in which they live. We will also be thinking about how we can attract animals and mini beasts to our school and finding out about food-chains.

P.E

Our P.E lessons this term will continue to both be on Wednesdays. However, please make sure your child has their full P.E kit in school for the whole week as occasionally the timetable may need to change.

Please ensure **ALL** items of school clothing and P.E kit are labelled as this reduces the anxiety the children experience when they mislay a shirt or pair of shorts. P.E sessions may take place outside so your child will need to have a hat and sun cream in school during the hot weather.

Art and D&T

In Art we will continue to look at Indian artists in the first half term. After the half term we will link our art work to our 'Habitats' topic and create collages of animals in their habitats. We will also be creating our own animals and investigating the different ways we can make patterns for our animals' fur/skin. In term 6 we will be having a D.T day, when we will be making paper toys including animals and illusions.

Homework

This half term we will be giving out specific English or maths homework on a Friday each week. This should be handed in on or before the following Thursday.

SATs

We have not discussed the KS1 SATs with the children and do not intend to worry them by making a fuss about it; however, from Friday 18th May until Friday 25th May they will be taking reading, maths and grammar/spelling tests. The children have already been getting used to the style of questions and tasks that they will be required to do in the tests within their normal English and maths lessons, so we hope that they will not find anything too daunting when it comes to the real thing. There is no need for you to do anything further with your child in relation to SATs, other than to continue practising the things that we have already suggested, but please ensure that they get plenty of sleep that week, eat a good breakfast each day and arrive at school on time. Please do not plan to take your child out of school during the test period - if your child does have any pre-arranged medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled, please let one of know as soon as possible because arrangements will need to be made for them to take the tests that they will miss.

Finally, if you would like to discuss anything concerning your child please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see us.

Mrs. K. Lucas, Mrs. A. Marsh & Mrs. T. Scott