



Elliott Park School

Newsletter

Class:	Tudor	Term:	2
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Dear Parents

I hope you had an enjoyable half term and welcome you back to a very busy and exciting term for the children. Last term was extremely successful, the children all settled in well, and have already started making notable progress in lots of areas of learning. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Malachi to the class. His sister will also be joining Saxon class as they have recently moved into the area. I hope they both settle well with us.

In English this term, we will start by using the forthcoming Remembrance Day as a focus for our lessons. We will use various written texts and poetry to learn about and apply aspects of vocabulary, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure. We will look closely at emotive language, using the sensitive topic as a basis for this. We will also use related pieces of art as inspiration for our art sessions. During the second half of the term, we will continue to look descriptive and emotive writing, using the magical Christmas novel written by Tom Fletcher.

In maths, we will continue to apply their improved knowledge of number and place value to addition and subtraction problems, becoming more confident in taught strategies. We will look at various aspects of measure, including perimeter and money in order to solve more complex problems using these skills. We will also begin to look at some data handling techniques and how to answer questions relating to these.

In science this term, the children will become rock detectives by learning about different types of rocks, their formation and properties by carrying out investigations. They will then find out more about fossils and soils.

In PE the children will be learning the skills required to play hockey, moving on to the rules and tactics of playing a game of hockey. Depending on the weather, we will begin using some of the second PE slots to start some dance sessions. This will involve the children learning movements before creating their own, combining ideas to form a group routine.

In computing the children will continue to develop their coding skills by finishing the Space Cadet coding course. They will also learn how to store and retrieve information using technology.

History and Geography will still be taught alternately each term over the academic year. This will allow us to spend more time focusing on topic areas and developing crucial skills highlighted in the curriculum. In term 2 Geography will be taught. The children will be investigating the region of Malopolska, which is in the South of Poland. We will compare this region to the UK. We will then move on to looking at planet Earth from the

international space station. We will consider what Earth looks like from space and how this compares to a 2D map of the Earth.

In RE, we will continue looking at Hinduism, focussing on the festival of Diwali. This will include understanding the story of Rama and Sita, how Hindus prepare for Diwali and the reasons why diva lamps are used to support this celebration. After spending the first term in PHSE, getting to know each other, discussing our strengths and those of the other children in Key Stage 2, we will now move on to look at relationships and friendships including how we can be more accepting of others. The children will also discuss antisocial behaviour and their responsibilities at home and at school. Before the end of term we will spend time considering Christmas and how the Nativity story differs between the Bible story and in more modern versions.

The children have settled in to the Key Stage 2 choir very well. Having worked hard to start learning the music for the Young Voices concert in February, the children are now also busy learning their Christmas pieces ready for the end of term concert. They are also going to be participating in a performance in the local community, giving them the opportunity to practise performance skills and share the happiness music can bring. Group recorder sessions are also progressing very well, and Mr Burleigh is impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm of the children each week.

Dates for your diaries

As previously mentioned, this term will be an incredibly busy one. Please see below the key dates you will need to know.

Poppy appeal items will be on sale starting soon during morning playtimes. Children will be able to obtain paper poppies for a donation, and purchase other items such as wristbands and bracelets for cost ranging from 50p to £2.

On 2nd November, those children who have been given permission, will be receiving the Flu Vaccination.

Due to its success last year, the PTA will be holding another Christmas Craft Fayre at school on 17th November, so please put this date in your diaries.

The school will be participating in Children in Need which is on 16th November. We will be holding a non-uniform day with a spotty theme, with donations from £1.

Class and individual photographs are booked to be taken on 20th November.

Plans for the final part of term are as follows:

The Key Stage 2 choir performance will be at a residential home on 3rd December.

4th December - Whole school pantomime trip (not Nursery) to the Maidstone Panto to see 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'.

12th December - British Olympic gymnast Courtney Tulloch will be visiting the school and running some sessions with the children.

13th December - PTA Christmas wrapping room followed by Christmas lunch and an afternoon class party. For the wrapping room, children will be able to purchase gifts for family members at a cost of £2 which will be wrapped and labelled for them to take home as a surprise for their loved ones at Christmas. Children will also be provided with a Christmas lunch and party afternoon for a cost of £3.

14th December - End of term performance at Layzells. KS1 will be performing a short Christmas play, followed by a selection of songs by the Key Stage 2 choir. Term 2 will finish at the end of the performance.

Personal reading, learning weekly spellings and preparing for the weekly mental maths test will form a large percentage of your child's homework, for which I thank you for your support. The writing children are producing in their weekly spellings books is already showing improvement. Please allow your child to complete this work with increasing independence to ensure they are challenging all key writing skills. Please use the Homework Diary to record when your child reads at home, along with any comments or questions you may have regarding this. If you are able to, hearing your child read aloud, discussing unknown vocabulary and asking questions regarding what they have read would be extremely beneficial to their development. Further information regarding additional homework will be provided as the work is set.

If at any time you have any questions, comments or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me either before or after school, or by a note in the Homework Diary. I look forward to working with you in order to enhance your child's school experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Nina Montgomery