



Elliott Park School
Newsletter

Class:	Norman	Term:	1
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Dear Parents

I hope you all had a good summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to this new school year. I understand life has been and continues to be particularly challenging recently, but we are all excited to be back to school and although, things will still be not quite normal, we will all do the very best we can. I am looking forward to working with both you and your child during this new school year.

During this final phase of Key Stage 1, a key skill we will work hard to develop is independence and responsibility. Please allow your child to continue to gradually increase their independence at home through tasks such as packing their lunch and school bag, ensuring they have all items necessary in their school bag and making decisions. Could I just take this opportunity to remind you that as a school we follow a strict 'no nuts' policy, which includes hazelnut flavoured chocolate spread sandwich fillings.

The children and I have started deciding on preferred expectations to try and work hard to help each other aim to always be the best we can. These are displayed within the classroom, where the children can track their progress towards achieving their goals. We will also have a proud cloud in the classroom, where children's names are added when they are praised for something during the school day. This will also earn them a postcard home, in order to share their success with their parents.

During this first term we will be looking at stories or films featuring the sea, or life under the sea. The children will then look more closely at how characters differ and writing detailed character descriptions. We will consider the use of adjectives as a way of improving our sentences. We will then consider what our characters say and how this is included in writing, paying close attention to the necessary punctuation. We will also look closely at the way fiction is constructed before the children create their own imaginative pieces in a similar style including rhyming in fiction. The children will also be writing a number of non-fiction texts based on elements of the books. We will also use this theme as our inspiration for creating some poetry.

In maths, the beginning of this term will aim to consolidate prior learning before moving on to working on improving the children's working knowledge of number and place value. This will ensure the children are confident in working with numbers before applying this in addition and subtraction problems. Knowledge of times tables are crucial in all aspects of maths and these should be practised as often as possible to ensure the children's knowledge of these is secure, starting with 10s and 2s.

In Science this term, children will consider healthy animals. They will develop their understanding of the life cycle of animals and understand how they keep healthy by looking at diet, exercise and lifestyle.

In PE the children will be learning the skills required to play rugby, moving on to the rules and tactics of playing a game of rugby. Please ensure PE Kits remain at school all week. Wednesday and Friday will be your child's main PE sessions; however, they may have a session on a different day during the week.

In Computing, students will be looking at the importance of e-safety. They will also start coding app Box Island and use this to learn about further programming ideas such as loops.

History and Geography will 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 1, History will be taught focusing on life as a child in the second world war and telephones over time. The term will start with the children investigating when the second world war was and what the term rationing means. We will then move onto the campaign 'dig for victory.' The final part of this topic will look at air raid shelters and what it meant to be evacuated. For the last 3 sessions of the term we will look at telephones over time and the invention of telephones.

This term in Art, we will take a trip around the world as the class explore animals from each of the seven continents and create art to reflect the animals found in each one. Starting with British wildlife and ending all the way down in Antarctica, children will use visual clues to help them identify animals, explore patterns, colours and features, and have the chance to create varied, challenging and engaging art projects.

RE for this term will be entitled 'Caring for others'. Children will learn about caring for others. The children will have the opportunity to explore the different ways that people celebrate their faith in a variety of different religions.

Our topic in PSHE this term is VIPs. This unit teaches children about Friendship and Relationships; encourage them to recognise the special people in families and friendships, and how to care and be kind to them.

A timetable has been provided for your information in the front of your child's homework diary. In order to make learning more relevant to the children, I intend to make links between different areas of the curriculum, providing additional opportunities to develop thinking skills and encouraging transferable abilities across their learning in a range of subjects.

Personal reading, learning weekly spellings using Spelling Shed, preparing for the weekly mental maths test and using the Times Tables Rock Stars app will form a large percentage of your child's homework, for which I thank you in advance for your support. Further details regarding these will be distributed soon.

Although we are unable to send reading books home, we will continue to hear children read at school throughout the week. Please continue to use the Homework Diary to record if your child reads at home, along with any comments or questions you may have regarding this. Hearing your child read aloud, discussing unknown vocabulary and asking questions regarding what they have read is 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 or comments about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me a note in the Homework Diary. I look forward to working with you in order to enhance your child's school experience.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miss Nina Montgomery