

Pioneer Class
Team: Miss Pearson, Mrs Jenvey, Mrs McDougal, Mrs Ashdown and Mrs Hickmott
Parent Information Sheet
Spring Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We look forward to welcoming your child back after the Christmas holidays. Mrs Leslie has now left to go on her maternity leave and will be returning next year. We wish her luck and best wishes for the exciting months ahead! In further news, we regret to inform you that Mrs Hayward has now left the school to move to the mainland. However, we are happy to welcome Mrs Hickmott into our class!

Maths

The children will cover the objectives set out in the National Curriculum and will cover the following areas: number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement and geometry.

English

The children have now completed the 'Step Up and Catch Up' programme that we followed in light of Covid-19 lockdown. We will now be following the objectives set out in the National Curriculum for Year 5 and 6. We are continuing to use rich texts to motivate the children and promote their love for reading. The following texts we will cover are:

- The Explorer by Katherine Rundell (newspaper article and a narrative)
- Wild Animals of The South by Dieter Braun and The Wonder Garden by Jenny Bloom (a descriptive non-chronological report)
- Journey to The River Sea by Eva Ibbotson (a formal letter)

Please feel free to purchase these books at home to support your child/children however please do not read them as we will be basing some of our teaching on making predictions.

Science - Living Things and their Habitats

The children will learn how to classify the five different groups of animals, as well as plants and microorganisms. They will then create different life cycles for: mammals, birds, amphibians and insects, before comparing their similarities and differences. The children will also learn about the basic characteristics of reproductive life cycles for both mammals and plants.

Computing - PowerPoint Presentations and Microsoft Excel

The children will develop their PowerPoint presentation learning how to research information safety using the internet as a research tool. In the first half-term, they will be partnered up and must create a presentation about Brazil and The Amazon Rainforest. They will then present this to the rest of the class. The children will be taught how to create text boxes, use different fonts, insert images, create transition between slides and finally hyperlinks. In the second half-term, the children will become cryptographers. They will become familiar with semaphore and Morse code and understand why private information needs to be encrypted. They will also encrypt and decrypt messages in simple ciphers.

PSHE - Living in The Wider World

In PSHE, the children will be exploring a case study called 'Plastic Ocean'. We will learn about the causes and consequences of plastic pollution and consider solutions, with a particular emphasis placed on recycling. They will learn about different careers they might like to pursue and why. We will also find out how to source different information online and will consider the importance of internet safety.

RE - Wisdom and the Sign of The Cross

The key concepts that will be covered this term are Wisdom linked to Islam and the Sign of The Cross linked to Christianity. In the unit on wisdom, the children will be explaining a personal response to the concept of wisdom and will be able to give examples of who and what have the right to guide them. They will be able to explain how people have different ideas about wisdom. The children will link their ideas to Islam specifically the Qur'an. In the unit on the sign of the cross, the children will be able to explain what is meant by resurrection and how this is significant to within the Easter Story.

PE

The children will learn how to dribble and pass in hockey. These skills will develop into matches and games. If parents could please ensure that their child has a gym shield and shin pads in school for their first week back. In gymnastics, they will explore different activities related to actions and sequences of movement, which will be up-levelled each week.

Art and Design

Art and Design will be linked to our new topic - Brazil and The Amazon Rainforest. The children will learn about the life of a famous artist, Henri Rousseau (1844-1910). They will use his paintings to develop their sketching and painting skills. They will then move on to plan, create and evaluate an animal from the Amazon Rainforest. They will use their hands to help create a parrot and will create a landscape of Rio!

MFL

In Key Stage 2, we will be having a French Day each half term (date to be confirmed). The children will appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in French. Engage in conversations: ask and answer questions. Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.

Topic - Brazil and The Amazon Rainforest

For the Spring Term, in topic, the children will be learning all about Brazil and The Amazon Rainforest. The activities will help the children to continue to develop their critical thinking skills. This is an important skill that will help them as they move up to High School. They will: develop their map skills and identify different continents and countries in the world while also identifying the position and significance of latitude and longitude lines, the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere the Topics of Cancer and Capricorn. They will focus on the location of Brazil with South America and compare the physical features of the UK and Brazil. They will compare the lives of the indigenous people in The Amazon to the rest of the people in Brazil and compare for and against reasons for deforestation. The children will develop their knowledge of land use and look at the Brazilian economy today including trade links and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Homework

Spellings:

10 spellings will be given out on a Friday and the children will be tested the following Friday. They have a homework book and their spellings will be written up in this, ready to learn at home. Please have a look at the different strategies to support the learning of spellings at home found in their homework book.

Times table:

The children will have a times table test every Friday. Please make sure your child learns their times table they are on.

Topic:

Research or take-home tasks connected to topic work will be set and the children will write this in their homework books. This is usually done at the end of each half term.

Ways to help your child at home:

Reading:

It is really important that you continue to hear your child read each evening even if it is just a few pages, just 10 minutes is proven to improve reading ages (even if your child is a 'free' reader). Your child will be able to change their books at the beginning of the day if finished at home (please remind your child should this be necessary). Encourage your child to read a wide range of texts. For example, newspapers, blogs, books.

Writing:

Please support your child to extend their vocabulary by encouraging reading. Encourage any writing opportunities at home. Ideas could be: writing postcards, letters, diary entries and stories. Support your child to develop neat handwriting. Support the use of a range of punctuation to help form accurate sentences.

Maths:

Please support with estimating and rounding numbers in different contexts. For example: shopping. The children will need to know all of their times tables up to x12 off by heart and be able to know associated division facts. Please help your child know how to tell the time in the 12- and 24-hour clock. Please support your child to convert between measurements (metric and imperial) in different contexts such as cooking and building.

P.E Kit

P.E will be taking place on a Wednesday and Friday. We are asking for the pupils to come to school in their P.E kits. Please ensure they have joggers and sweatshirts, in case of cold weather. The majority of their P.E lessons will take place outside. Please ensure your child has a gum shield and shin pads for the start of the Spring Term for their hockey lessons.

If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me,

Miss Pearson