

Dear Parents,

I hope your children are settling well into Pioneer Class. I am excited to be teaching in Pioneer class and have been busy preparing interesting learning opportunities for the year ahead. Below is some information that you may find useful.

Topics

Our topics run on a 2 year programme and alternate with History and Geography throughout the year. In September, Pioneers start with a History Topic - The Victorians. The children will explore how life was different in Victorian times and also link in local history by visiting Osborne House and finding out about Queen Victoria.

Science

In Science this term the children will investigate Light in the first half term. Carrying out experiments to see how light travels, finding out about shadows and discovering how they change during the day and investigating colour and light. After half term, the children will explore electricity and develop their own circuits, investigating how adding more bulbs or buzzers will affect the brightness/sound and why this is.

PE

PE is led by Mrs Royal and will take place on Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Please can children come into school in their PE kits on those days with long hair tied back and any ear-rings removed for safety. As the weather gets colder please ensure your child wears warm dark coloured joggers/leggings, has a school jumper and a water proof jacket. Please ensure all PE kits are named so it is easy to locate items with the correct owner.

Reading

Please enable your child to read every night. Your support makes so much difference to their progress. In Pioneers, most children will be free readers, if your child has a reading scheme book, these will be changed weekly. Please access other books for enjoyment and to encourage a love of reading.

Spelling

Spelling will be taught using Spelling Shed. Children will have 10 spellings to learn every week, initially I will be asking them to practise on a Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check grid as they get to know the spelling shed programme in school but after half term I will be asking the children to practise using the Spelling Shed app. They will still get a word list to take home.

English

In English our first based-based writing unit is Street Child. The children will learn important English skills to improve their speaking, listening and writing skills, working towards creating a final piece of work. If possible, please do not share the texts until after they have been read in class. In addition to the English lessons the children will have handwriting, spelling and guided reading taught throughout the week.

In year 5 and 6 handwriting is a key focus and we expect all children to be using joined writing.

Maths

All children will take part in a daily Maths lesson. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, Maths lessons will start with Corbett Maths which is a mental arithmetic starter of 5-6 questions focusing on key skills. A quick recall of times tables to 12x is crucial to ensure children can calculate quickly using larger numbers and strategies. All children have a login for TT Rockstars we would encourage children to use this programme a couple of times a week at home to practise their times table recall.

SATS

The Year 6 children will undertake the Statutory End of Key Stage SATs tests from May 11 - 14. We will prepare the children for these assessments through timetabled practises and a curriculum that will cover and practise all key skills needed.

School Trips

Our first school trip is to Osborne House on Tuesday 7th October.

This year the children have the opportunity to go on a residential activity trip at PGL in Wootton in June. They will be away for 3 days and take part in a range of activities to challenge and build confidence for example canoeing, abseiling and bushcraft skills.

There will be further trips to enhance the children's learning during the year that we will inform you about as they come up.

Things to remember

- Water bottle in class, named everyday. Water only please.
- Label all jumpers, coats, hats, bags and anything else that you can put their name on!
- Reading everyday and recorded in their reading records.
- Spelling homework will be on a grid this half term, but from October via Spelling Shed.
- Children's passwords for Times Tables Rock Stars, Gmail are in the front of their reading record books.
- Dojo (our reward point site) will be running and you will be sent a link to log in. Points will be reset each week after they have been counted up in celebration worship.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead and settling into a happy routine quickly. Please do not hesitate to see us if you have any concerns or need any further information. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Pierrepont, Mrs Jenvey and Mr Enser