

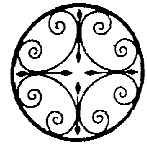
Parents Newsletter Spring 2011 Year 5



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school life! We hope your break was relaxing and that you are all now ready to face a new term. Last term was as eventful as ever and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support. Without it, the events within school would not be as successful. Your help, in whatever way given, is appreciated.

In Literacy this term we will be focusing on a range of text types, including traditional stories, film narratives, recounts and report/explanation texts. Our children will enjoy looking at the legends of Robin Hood and writing their own news reports during a unit of work called "What's our news? We're off to Burwell!" This unit also links with Maths, I.C.T., Geography skills, P.S.H.C.E. and P.E. The children will develop skills in script writing and performance in preparation for recording a news programme in the T.V. studio at Burwell House. They will study number facts and problems related to Burwell, research facts about foxes using child-friendly websites, learn about our rules and responsibilities while staying in Burwell House and develop their teamwork skills. There will, of course, be further information about the residential trip to Burwell House before we go, but please do not hesitate in coming to see us if you have any queries relating to the trip.



In Numeracy our units of work are: counting, partitioning and calculating, understanding shape, handling data and measures, securing number facts and relationships between numbers and shapes. Some of this work will be done on laptops during I.C.T. lessons where we will use databases and spreadsheets.



P.E. days continue to be Wednesdays (with Mrs. Webb) and Fridays. **Please ensure that your child has indoor and outdoor kits throughout the week**, including a change of footwear, and that they are able to remove their earrings or do not wear them on PE days. Children must have shorts and bare feet for indoor PE in order to access the gym equipment safely. Tracksuit trousers and a sports' sweater are essential for outdoor lessons on these colder winter days!

In Music lessons this term the children will be given opportunities to develop new skills in performance with the voice and on classroom instruments, incorporating the use of graphic scores. This will include instrumental and vocal work on rounds and part songs. This links in beautifully with our Science lessons where the children will be learning about the Sun, Moon and Earth, and also the history topic on the Ancient Greeks and their fascination with the planets. We will, of course, be dipping into Holst's Planet Suite as we go along and learning a little about his background in our neighbouring county of Suffolk.

Children can also continue developing their musical skills in the school band, led by Mrs Cutts, on Mondays. The band has already been performing in assemblies and at the Christmas service. The children will continue performing in assemblies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term.

Within R.E. the children will be learning about the life of the Buddha, meditation and worship. This will include asking questions about Buddhism and researching answers using a range of media.



We will be helping children to develop their self-confidence and self-awareness through a range of PSHCE activities during the first half of the Spring term in our topic 'Going for goals'. Our work after half term in PSHE and Science involves learning and activities related to Health, Sex and Relationship Education. They are intended to support children in understanding their own emotions and bodies as they grow and change. The units of work will focus on 2 main areas: puberty and the human life cycle.

As well as teaching the curriculum, we also aim to deal with issues raised in a sensitive, open and age appropriate way. It is possible that, following these sessions, your child may wish to discuss some of the topics. Whilst we will answer many of the children's questions, both directly and using a communication box, we may also decide that some of their questions do not need answering at this stage and would be more appropriate discussed at home or at a later date. If you would like to see any of the resources used in the teaching of SRE please do not hesitate to come in and see us.

The children will continue to build their vocabulary through conversation and role-play in French lessons with Mr. Hicks. In addition, they will develop their French writing skills and participate in a French dancing workshop.



We were overwhelmed by the high standard of the termly project homework and would like to thank you for your support. More project homework will be on the way soon, linked to our History topic: The Ancient Greeks. In the meantime, we will continue handing out Literacy/Numeracy homework on Thursdays and collecting them in on Tuesdays.

Year 5 classes will be leading an assembly this term. Class 11 would be delighted if you were able to attend on 11th March and class 12 will be eager to see you on 18th March.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request that, should your child's normal home time routines change, you inform the class teacher as it can be really helpful to know if you are not collecting your child and who that child has permission to go home with. We would like to avoid any worrying situations for all those involved in the care of every child.

Thank you once again for your continued help and support.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki Cutts and Lorraine Webb