

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! This term will be a busy and exciting one.

Later in the term, we will be preparing the children for their end of Key Stage SATS next term. These exams start on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** and continue for the week. In order to support the children with their preparation, we will be providing weekly SATS booster classes, which will start on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Booster classes will run from **3.30 – 4.30**, with a focus on English and maths on Wednesdays (in Pink Class) and Thursdays (in Scarlet Class). There will also be extra booster lessons during lunchtimes that your child may participate in.

### **ENGLISH**

In English this term, we will be looking at both fiction and non-fiction writing. The fiction focus will be on story writing and diary entries from different perspectives. The non-fiction focus will be to study report writing, explanation and instruction writing, as well as persuasive and discursive writing. We will also read our class novel, which is 'I am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai. In addition, we will continue work on basic skills such as: spelling, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and comprehension.

### **MATHS**

In maths, we will be covering the following areas in our daily lessons:

- Addition and subtraction (written and mental methods)
- Multiplication and division. Children need to know by heart multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 and the partition method for mental calculation
- Written methods for short and long multiplication and division
- Shape and space, including measures and time, reading scales and conversion of metric units
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Data handling: graphs and data charts including pie-charts and Venn diagrams
- Word and number problems
- Simple probability
- Use of estimation and approximation including rounding
- Properties of number – multiples, factors, prime and squared numbers etc.
- Algebra

### **SCIENCE**

In science, we will focus on Living Things and Their Habitats. The children will learn about the classification of all living things: animals, plants and micro-organisms. They will learn about the key scientists who developed the classification system that we still use today, such as Carl Linnaeus. Their learning will be enriched by a trip to the Natural History Museum and visits to our school gardens, where they will explore plant classification with the help of a gardener. They will also carry out comparative testing on micro-organisms, which will link with and develop their prior learning on testing earlier this year.

### **TOPIC**

Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt. In this exciting scheme of work, we will look closely at how this ancient civilisation has impacted our lives today. We will compare Ancient Egypt to other civilisations, focusing on beliefs and traditions and how sources of information can differ. It will involve independent research on various aspects of the topic and artwork on this fascinating area of history.

## **ART AND DESIGN**

To tie in with their science topic, children will be studying the natural world in art this term, with Lucia, our artist in residence. Children will study marine life and specifically micro-organisms, such as algae, exploring their shapes and patterns using a variety of mixed media.

## **COMPUTING**

In computing, we will be learning how to use and create data in spreadsheets, using Microsoft Excel. The children will also focus on Internet safety and how to use the Internet wisely.

## **RE**

In RE, children will continue to learn from and about religion in the same way as they have previously. They will consider the question: Can we live by the values of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? These lessons will be discussion and enquiry-based and will link to all major religions.

## **PE**

PE will take place on Wednesdays for Scarlet Class and Thursdays for Pink Class and this term's focus will be ball games. Please make sure your child is equipped with a pair of trainers or gym shoes and tracksuit bottoms or shorts.

## **FRENCH**

In French, children will be learning about clothes ('les vêtements') with our specialist French teacher, Bahia. Learning will include giving opinions, talking about prices and describing clothing. We will also revise learning from previous terms, in preparation for learning in secondary school.

## **PSHE**

To support their class reader this term, the children will be learning about identity, society and equality. They will learn about people who have moved to Islington from other places, (including the experience of refugees), about human rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and homelessness. Later this term, the children will explore "Staying Safe": how to deal with growing up, keeping safe in the wider world and peer pressure at secondary school.

We are also delighted to inform you that we will be taking the children on a visit to the Houses of Parliament, where they will take of the tour of the building and participate in a workshop on debating. More details about this trip to follow.

**Attendance and punctuality is vital to your child's success, since lessons missed will not be repeated resulting in your child being less prepared for secondary school than their classmates. Similarly, enough sleep and a healthy breakfast before school will set them up for the school day.**

Finally, should you have any queries or want to discuss your child's progress with us at any time please email one of us and we can usually get back to you within 24 hours.

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