

Happy New Year To You All!



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity – the class gifts were absolutely amazing!

Your children have returned to school full of exciting news about their Christmas and New Year celebrations. I have really enjoyed listening to and reading all about their Christmas holiday. It sounds like there are some extremely lucky children in our class!! We had lots of fun sharing news about both our most unusual and our very favourite Christmas presents – there were some very strange contributions to the discussion!!!

Yesterday, we marked the 160th birthday of St. Peter's school with a special assembly led by Reverend Ruth Colby. We also designed a special cake in honour of the occasion.

We have a busy but quite short Spring term ahead with lots of new learning and exciting activities to pack into the next weeks.

Our new driver topic for this term is geography based and is called 'Coastlines' This topic will teach children about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the coastal town of Whitby, in Yorkshire. I will be sending out a new optional homework grid with a range of linked activities for the children to choose from if they wish to do so. Homework can be sent into school on a Friday morning once again to be celebrated by us all.

In science, we will be building on previous knowledge through our topic named 'plant survival'. The children will develop their knowledge about the growth of plants from seeds and bulbs. They will also observe the growth of plants first hand, recording changes over time and identifying what plants need to grow and stay healthy. We have already made a start with this.

In R.E. our focus is 'Who made the World?' and we will begin by learning about the story of The Creation by looking at what happened each day – this will be completed through discussion, art and drama. The final few weeks of learning will lead into the Easter story.

Our topic in Art is 'Flower Head' (This will be for the first half term, followed by Design and Technology after the mid-term break) The project teaches children about the visual elements of flowers, including shape, texture, colour, pattern and form. They will also explore various artistic methods, including drawing, printmaking and 3-D forms, using paper and clay.

In addition to these learning areas, we will also enjoy weekly sessions of IT, Music and P.E. – all in all, rather a busy term ahead!!

Maths:

For the first half of this term, our maths focus will be work on money, multiplication and division skills. The children will also complete short burst mental maths tasks as part of each daily lesson. I will be sending out a pack of mental maths activities for you to complete at home with your child in a couple of weeks from now. Again, these will be optional but will be of great benefit to your child.

English:

As well as daily handwriting, reading and spelling sessions, we will continue to teach written skills through 'Talk for Writing'. This half term, we will be completing our work about the story of 'The Papaya That Spoke' before moving on to a new focus shortly.

Spelling:

Spelling tests will continue to take place every Thursday (apart from when we are at Beaumanor Hall!) Weekly lists and tips to help with learning the new words can be found on the class page of the school website. The new lists are more challenging than last term and all I can ask is that the children do their best. There is a lot of repetition with key words and many of these will be addressed in daily handwriting activities as well as spelling sessions. Our first spelling test will be next Thursday 11th January.

Reading:

Please continue to encourage your child to read at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner – I really appreciate your support with this. As always, I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I am also happy for children to read their own books from home or the library if they wish to. I will continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading. If books need changing in between your child's nominated book change day, they will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will still require an outdoor kit for Tuesday and Friday sessions
- Wednesday 29th March – Thursday 30th March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Wednesday 13th – Thursday 14th March. Further information will be sent out later this term.

Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates. I will send a more detailed newsletter as normal in a fortnight from now – Friday 19th January.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey