

Dear Parents and carers,

This letter is to let you know your children's learning in the Spring Term, and how you can help them embed and enjoy this learning.

Our topic is the United Kingdom, paying particular attention to counties and moreover, Somerset. Within this we will be looking at human and physical geography, environmental and fieldwork along with those skills that make us geographers - such as map reading. We will look at the history of counties and maps and discover how counties have been established. It would be great if you could talk to your children about the counties of Great Britain and perhaps show them on a map where relatives live etc.

In our science lessons the children will be learning about animals including humans. We will examine further the adaptations animals have made to live where they do, and the effect of the environment on those animals. We will be looking at the human skeleton and how we keep ourselves healthy. There are some fabulous television shows about animals for children which will be good for adding to their knowledge.

In English we are looking at and then writing our narrative – using a character description, and persuasion writing. We will then look at non-chronological reports and narrative. We use quality texts, both fictional and non-fictional on which to base our writing. Running through the term will be reading and comprehension activities, as well as spelling, grammar and punctuation. We will be reading our class book and the children will be looking at some comprehension activities for this and for other varied texts.

In PE we will be trying out gymnastics and dance. Our PE will be on a Monday afternoon and a Thursday morning.

Musical focus for this term: Calypso, call-and-response, clave rhythm, syncopation, C major scale with solfa, melody, chords, developing tuned percussion techniques, history of steel pans from Trinidad and Tobago, improvising and composing using call-and-response.

The children will be exploring a range of pieces during this unit: Mangrove twilight by Lily May, Calypso queen, Same boat, and Watina by Calypso Rose, Pan in 'A' minor by Lord Kitchener, Four white horses Traditional Caribbean, My voice is really funky by London Rhymes, Splanky by Count Basie Orchestra, Traditional women's music from Ghana and Big Sing Up mambo.

Our DT for this half term will be taught by Mrs Wedderkopp on a Monday, and the children will be making purses using various stitches and fastenings. The art and DT will return to a Tuesday with Mrs Phillips after half term.

In French we will be following our Language Angels study. The children will continue to learn the pronunciation and sounds they need to learn a basic French vocabulary.

Please make sure your children read at home at least four times per week for approximately twenty minutes or more. Please ensure you sign their reading records as there is a special treat awarded for those who have the four signatures! Remember to ask your children about events in the book, characters, settings and what they think might happen! We also require the children to learn their spellings, and, for year 4 practise their times tables every day. We would encourage the children to complete their Doodle spellings.

Please always feel free to stop me in the playground at drop off or pick up, and, if you would like to meet outside of these times do ring the office for an appointment.

I am looking forward to continuing the children's learning journey. I have to say how very proud I am of them all

Kind Regards

Joanna Jolliffe