

Pearls Learning Overview!

Spring 2024

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and just wanted to say a big thank you for all of my very thoughtful gifts. We are looking forward to a new spring term. In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be studying. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference for the rest of the term. During the spring term we will be trying to encourage greater independence. We hope to continue to form strong links between home and school and are always happy to discuss any concerns with you. Please feel free to pop in and make an appointment in order to discuss any concerns, to look at classroom displays or allow your child to share and discuss some of their work with you.

DAILY ROUTINE

The children are expected to enter the playground between 8.35 and 8.45 and make their way to the classroom. If the children have letters they should put these into the pink box in the classroom including any money which should be in a sealed and named envelope. Any homework should be placed in the 'homework box'. The children will start the day with an early morning task, then their spellings work in their year groups, which is followed by group reading and writing. After play we have times tables tests and maths. Some groups and individual children are also taken out of class in the mornings for work to support their individual needs, so we therefore ask that all children arrive into school on time so that these are not missed or disrupted. The foundation subjects, including science, will be taught in the afternoons. School finishes at 3.15pm when myself or Mrs Pinhorn will lead the children into the playground. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. The children are to wait in the playground until they are collected, unless we have had confirmation by you that they are allowed out of the school grounds.

THE CURRICULUM

TOPICS Our Topic for this term will be 'Invaders and Settlers', which will mainly be focused on the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. This topic will be largely history based, but will also incorporate many other areas of the curriculum including English, Geography, DT and Art. I have organized a class trip for Wednesday 7th February to Butser Ancient Farm and will send more details shortly. We will also have a Viking day after half term.

Helping at home - Please allow your child access to the internet, books and any other resources to find out information about these areas.



English will be taught following the English curriculum and will be linked to the current topic wherever possible. We will be reading and writing a variety of genres, including narrative and non-fictional writing.

During the first half term we will be using the texts: Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo and Anglo-Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman. During the second half term we will be using Arthur and the Golden Rope and How to be a Viking. We will be writing newspaper articles, biographies, character descriptions, persuasive letters and formal & narrative writing.

Grammar will be taught discretely every week in order to support their writing.

Helping at home - Children learn so many skills for their writing from their reading. Please encourage your child to read every day for at least 20min. This could be anything your child is interested in; magazine, comic, newspaper, fiction book, non-fiction book, internet resource. It really is such an important life skill and if your child reads each day, the benefits will be clear to see!

Reading

The format for the children's reading diaries is to encourage more regular reading at home and reward those children who are ensuring their reading diaries are updated on a regular basis with team points and prizes, if you could help support your child with this, we would be very grateful. This, alongside the books that they read during Guided Reading, counts towards their certificates and book prizes for reading.

SCIENCE

This term we will be learning about Forces that oppose motion.

Pupils should be taught:

- When objects move through air and water, they have to push it out of the way.
- The water and air push back is called air resistance and water resistance.
- The harder it is to push the material out of the way the greater the resistance.
- Gases weigh less than liquids and so water resistance is greater than air resistance
- Friction is a force against motion.
- Some objects require large forces to make them move and may need gears, pulleys or levers.

MUSIC

This term the instruments being taught by Hampshire Music Service are Steel Drums. This will be taught on a Tuesday afternoon before PE.



Maths will be taught daily and linked to our topic work wherever possible. We will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt.

This term we will be looking specifically at:

- Negative numbers
- Roman Numerals
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Multiplication and division
- Interpreting graphs and charts
- Using information in a variety of representations
- Converting measures of length and solving problems involving addition and subtraction

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will have two P.E. sessions; one every other Friday afternoon and the other on a Tuesday afternoon, both with JC Sports coaches. Please ensure that the children wear their P.E. kits into school on these days. P.E. lessons will sometimes be outside, so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing and footwear. On the days when P.E. is taught, please tie long hair back and remove earrings. If your child is unable to participate in a P.E. lesson, please contact us.

COMPUTING

This term we will be looking at how a flat-file database can be used to organise data in records. We will use tools within a database to order and answer questions about data and create graphs and charts to help solve problems. We will use a real life database to answer questions and present our work to others.

During the second half term, we will create programs by planning, modifying and testing commands to create shapes and patterns using Logo. We will be looking at repetition and loops within programming.



HOMEWORK

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills, particularly in English and Maths, extend school learning, e.g. through additional reading and encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence needed to study on their own, which will prepare them for the requirements of secondary school. In Pearls the children are expected to complete 1½ hours of homework each week, which includes reading. We are trying to get all children in class to read AT LEAST 4 times a week, as this is part of their homework, they may lose Rainbow's End time and possibly playtimes if this is not completed each week. Formal pieces of homework such as Maths and English tasks will be set once a week every Friday to be completed over the weekend and handed in by the following Friday. Although we practise times tables, number bonds and using the analogue and digital clock in lessons, we would be very grateful if you could work with your child at home as often as possible to ensure they have a secure understanding of these areas. Especially if your child has extra sheets sent home to complete.



TT ROCKSTARS

Please ensure your child is completing sessions on TT Rockstars each week as part of our homework. We feel these key skills are fundamental in progressing with their maths skills, so please continue to use the website little and often and let us know if you have any problems logging in. We are going to track the children's progress in class and reward those who are completing these sessions regularly.

HOMEWORK DIARIES

Each child has been issued with a homework folder. Please ensure that you are aware of your child's homework task(s) as some may require adult support to complete. Homework folders will be checked on a regular basis and if your child has a genuine reason for not completing homework tasks please let me know in writing otherwise they will lose some of their playtimes or rainbow's end time.

MFL

Your child will be learning French this term. This will be taught every other Friday afternoon. So any extra support or practise at home would be great.

WATER / DRINKS

Drinking water regularly is very important to help concentration. Please try to ensure your child has access to a drinks bottle that can be filled with water throughout the day.



DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

If you wish to speak to us about any concerns or queries that you may have please make an appointment to see me. We look forward to a new term with your child and making their time at Buriton Primary School as enjoyable as possible.

Thank you,

Mrs. Evans