



Welcome Back Pearls

Hello and welcome back to what I am sure will be an enjoyable Spring Term. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a well-deserved rest. In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be learning this term. I hope that we will continue to form strong links between home and school and I am always happy to discuss any concerns you may have. Please feel free to email me or ring the school for an appointment.

Daily Routine

The gate will be unlocked at 8.35am and the children can make their way into class between 8.35am and 8.45am at which time the gate will be locked. Any homework that is not Doodle based, should be placed in to the year group homework trays and reading diaries should be placed in the appropriate trays to be checked every Monday. The children will start the day with a morning activity before moving on to Spelling. This is followed by Group reading, English and Maths every morning. In the afternoon we teach the foundation subjects which include science, art, DT, history, geography, PE, music, computing, PSHE and RE. School ends at 3.15pm for Pearls at which time I will lead the children out to the playground.

The Curriculum

Topic

Our topic this term is a River based topic entitled 'Where the River flows'. This topic is primarily a Geography topic but we will be covering other areas of the curriculum within it. During the first half of the term we will be focusing on the formation of Rivers and comparing our local River to others in the UK. After half term we will focus on one area of Europe and one area of the USA, comparing them to our local area and the Rivers that run through them.

English

Writing

Our writing this term will be linked to our topic whenever possible.

During the first half term we will be using:

- The Rhythm of the rain by Grahame Baker- Smith. We will write poems, recounts and persuasive texts using the text as a driver.
- The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame. We will write character and setting descriptions and have a go at writing an additional part to the story.

After half term we will be using:

- Ruckus - short film. We will use this to develop our understanding of figurative language and to write from a character's perspective.
- The Raft by Jim Lamarche. We will use this text to write diaries and letters as well as completing character studies.

Each morning your child will also spend some time developing their handwriting

Reading

We teach the skills of reading daily in English lessons, during Group Reading, whilst reading with individuals and in other curriculum areas. Daily practise is needed to improve the skills of fluency and comprehension and we cannot over-emphasise the importance of encouraging your child to read at home. We suggest that this should take place at least four times a week for about 20 minutes. Independent readers also benefit from shared reading as it gives them the opportunity to discuss characters, plot etc. and improves comprehension. It would be especially helpful if you could encourage your child to read over the weekend as well as all Reading Records are checked every Monday. It is very important that your child remembers to hand this in as failure to do so will result in your child losing Rainbows End time at the end of each half term. As always your child will receive rewards every time they read 30 lots of 30 pages.

We will also be sharing texts as a class during the term. These will be The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DuCamillo and The Upside Down River by Jean-Claude Mourlevat .

Spelling

Spelling will take place every morning between 9.00 and 9.20am. During this time will be focusing on different spelling rules. Every Friday your child will bring home three spellings to learn for a test the following Friday. They will need to understand the meaning of the words and put them into sentences. We will also be focusing on grammar and punctuation during these sessions.

Maths

Maths will be taught for an hour each morning. During this time we will practise/test Times Tables.

We will then focus on mathematical reasoning, problem solving and fluency in the following areas:

- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions, Decimals and percentages
- Statistics

Science

Our Science this term is Earth and Space
During the term we will be learning about;

- The movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system.
- The movement of the moon relative to the Earth
- The sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies
- How the Earth's rotation can explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

We will be visiting the Planetarium at Winchester Science museum on 8th February to reinforce our learning.

Physical Education

P.E. lessons will take place on Thursday and Friday afternoons with JC Sports. Please ensure your child is in full PE kit for the whole day.

Music

This half term our class will be learning 'ukelele' on a Thursday afternoon. This will culminate with a performance for parents towards the end of term.

Computing and RE

Computing and RE will be taught on a Monday with Mrs Holloway.

Homework

Homework

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy, 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 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours of homework each week, comprising of reading daily and other formal pieces of homework such as numeracy and literacy. Formal homework tasks will be set once a week every Friday to be completed over the weekend and completed by the following Friday. We are now using Doodle for most homework and this will be set in the form of assignments. Please make sure your child completes doodle homework independently as it is important that any gaps/misconceptions are highlighted.

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.

Homework Diaries

Each child has been issued with a homework folder. These will be used for spellings and any written homework set. Please ensure that you are aware of your child's homework task(s) as some may require adult support to complete. Also, please complete the record sheet in the front of their homework folder. Homework folders will be checked on a regular basis and if your child has a genuine reason for not completing homework tasks please let us know in writing.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support

Mrs Evans, Mrs Holloway and Mrs Pinhorn