

Welcome Back Pearls

Hello and welcome back to what I am sure will be an enjoyable Summer Term. I hope you all had a lovely Easter 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 8.40am and the children can make their way into class between 8.40am and 8.50am at which time the gate will be locked.

Any homework 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 entitled 'From Bean to Buriton'. 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 Africa as a continent and Ghana as a country. We will look at the geography, biomes and landscape within these areas. After half term we will focus on one area of Ghana - Dominase - and learn about the coco belt and how chocolate is made (from bean to bar).

English

Writing

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

During the first half term we will be using:

- 'The Boy who biked the world' Book One - Africa. We will write diaries, instructions and explanations using the text as a driver.

After half term we will be using:

- The Village that vanished. We will use this to develop empathy with a character and make connections with their own lives • To investigate how illustrations influence a reader's experience of a text • To develop creative responses to a text through drama, music, movement and poetry • To compose and perform poetry • To write in role to explore characters and events • To explore and develop ideas through discussion .
- African Tales. We will use this text to establish and develop an insight into the culture, geography and history of the countries introduced. • To be given the opportunity to develop the skill of oral story telling. • To enjoy a story and discuss its meanings. • To explore these through role-play and through writing in role. • To develop a personal and distinctive storytelling voice to support story telling and writing inspired by the collection. • To develop reader response by exploring interpretations of themes, plots and characters actions and motivations through discussion and debate.

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 Murder on the Safari Star and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

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 linked to our topic wherever possible. We will be revisiting, consolidating and extending concepts previously learnt. This term we will specifically be covering; decimals, percentages, money, time, properties of shape and position and direction.

We will also be continuing to practise and test Times Tables daily.

Physical Education

The Summer Term is always the best term for PE opportunities. This term your child will have PE on Thursday afternoons, Tennis on Monday afternoons and swimming (which starts on 20th May) every Friday morning. I will also be teaching some athletics in the run up to Sports Day on 29th June. Please make sure your child wears their PE kit into school on Mondays and Thursdays. As the weather gets warmer they should now be wearing the proper school PE kit rather than home clothes. They will also need a sunhat, sunscreen, and a drink in school. On the days that PE is taught can you please ensure long hair is tied back and earrings are removed. If your child is unable to do PE please let me know in writing.

Music

This half term our class will be learning 'Music Tech' 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, eg. 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 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 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.

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. 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.

