HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to all of the fantastic learning we have planned this term! In this letter, you will find details about the learning your child will be doing this term, our routines and any useful activities they could do at home to support this. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, we are here if you need us.

All of our work is differentiated according to your child's individual needs, therefore, please understand that the following is a generalised account of some of the learning that will be taking place this half term. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these areas, please see either of us.

English

Reading – *"The more you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* This is a famous quote by Dr Suess. And it's 100% accurate. We are reading everyday in class. We have guided reading sessions, where we read a class text and then complete a short activity based on the text. We have independent reading, where the children read their own books. Then we also have our class reader that we read to them throughout the term. Reading is so very important for creativity, imagination, knowledge, communication, vocabulary and it can help us to be calm and relaxed. We love books and spending quality time sharing books with them and hope to instil this in our children too.

The Promise - We will be reading this text as a class and will be basing our reading and writing activities on the text for the first few weeks. We will be writing shorter pieces focussing on figurative language and poetry. We will also be writing a more extended piece of writing, which will be writing a sequel to the story.

The Ocean Maker: A short animation from the Lucas Martell Studios - We will be watching this beautiful post-apocalyptic animation of hope, where as a result of global warming, the seas have disappeared. This will provide lots of opportunities to develop our prediction skills in reading, setting descriptions, understanding and developing characters and writing narrative directly linked to the film.

Can We Save the Tiger by Martin Jenkins and Vicky White – The sequence begins by exploring an argument from another group's perspective, before going on to read the text. During the sequence, we will create posters, persuasive speeches, poems (as well as having the opportunity to learn a poem by heart), explanation texts and discussion texts.

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; magazines, comics, newspapers, fiction books, non-fiction books, internet resources. It really is such an important life skill and if your child reads each day the benefits will be clear to see!*

Maths – Our main focus is to prepare them their SATs and for secondary school, which whilst covering the year 6 curriculum, will involve revisiting previously taught areas of maths, the remaining areas of maths we haven't yet covered and formally assessing the children during their SATs.

Number – We will be reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to 10,000,000 and determining the value of each digit. Rounding any whole number to a required degree of accuracy,

using negative numbers in context, and calculating intervals across zero. We will also be solving number and practical problems that involve all of the above.

Addition and Subtraction – The children will be solving addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why, using simple formulae and using their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations. In algebra they will be using simple formulae, expressing missing number problems algebraically and finding pairs of numbers that satisfy number sentences involving two unknowns. They will also be performing mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers, using estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, levels of accuracy.

Multiplication and Division – The children will be multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication and long division, and interpreting remainders as whole number remainders, fractions, or by rounding, as appropriate for the context. They will also be performing mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers, solving problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and using estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, levels of accuracy and using their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations. They will be identifying common factors, common multiples and prime numbers and expressing missing number problems algebraically.

In algebra they will be using simple formulae, generating and describing linear number sequences, finding pairs of numbers that satisfy number sentences involving two unknowns and enumerating all possibilities of combinations of two variables.

In ratio and proportion they will be solving problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found by using integer multiplication and division facts, solving problems involving the calculation of percentages (e.g. of measures) such as 15% of 360 and the use of percentages for comparison. They will also be solving problems involving similar shapes where the scale factor is known or can be found and unequal sharing and grouping using knowledge of fractions and multiples.

In Statistics they will be calculating and interpreting the mean as an average and interpreting and constructing pie charts and line graphs and using these to solve problems.

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages – We will be using common factors to simplify fractions and common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination. Comparing and ordering fractions, including fractions >1, adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions and multiplying simple pairs of proper fractions, writing the answer in its simplest form (e.g. /4 × 1/2 = 1/8) associate a fraction with division and calculating decimal fraction equivalents (e.g. 0.375) for a simple fraction (e.g. 3/8). They will also be identifying the value of each digit to three decimal places and multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 where the answers are up to three decimal places. Multiplying one-digit numbers with up to two decimal places by whole numbers, solving problems which require answers to be rounded to specified degrees of accuracy and recalling and using equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts.

Measurement – We will be solving problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure and using decimal notation up to three decimal places where appropriate. We will be using, reading, writing and converting between standard units, converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time from a smaller unit of measure to a larger unit, and vice versa. We will also be recognising that shapes with the same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa and recognising when it is possible to use formulae for area and volume of shapes. We will also be converting between miles and kilometres, calculating the area of parallelograms and triangles and calculating, estimating and comparing volume of cubes and cuboids using standard units, including centimetre cubed (cm3) and cubic metres (m3), and extending to other units such as mm3 and km3.

Geometry – We will be drawing 2-D shapes using given dimensions and angles, comparing and classifying geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and finding unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons. We will also be illustrating and naming parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and know that the diameter is twice the radius and recognising angles where they meet at a point, are on a straight line, or are vertically opposite, and find missing angles. We will be describing and building simple 3-D shapes, including making nets compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and finding unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals, and regular polygons.

In position and direction, we will be describing positions on the full coordinate grid (all four quadrants) recognising, drawing and translating simple shapes on the coordinate plane, and reflecting them in the axes.

Helping at Home – *A really good way to become a competent mathematician is to mentally recall important numerical facts. Therefore, learning tables is in an invaluable skill. Please work with your child on learning each times table in order and then, once learned, ask random questions for the answer. If practised often enough, these skills will become a recall skill and the children's mental calculations will become quicker and more accurate.*

Science – This term we will be studying the unit on Electricity; this unit builds on from the Year 4 unit on Electricity. The children will learn to create circuits and use symbols in a diagram to represent them. They will be further developing their understanding of what electricity is and how to measure it. The class will also be learning about two of the most important scientific inventors in the field of electricity - Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla.

During the second half of the Spring term we will be studying light. We will be looking at beams of light and how light travels in straight lines; this will enable the children to understand how we see things. We will be looking at the production of shadows and working with mirrors to understand how light is reflected. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate refraction, carrying out investigations into the effects of bending light as well as studying the visible spectrum. They will be working in a hands-on way to explore how light creates the colours that we see. The topic also focuses on coloured lights and rainbows, using scientific skills to raise and answer questions. It builds on work previously carried out in Year 4 on light, shadows and reflection.

Geography - This term our topic is 'Over the Equator.' We will be improving our knowledge and understanding of our local region and comparing it with a region in Australia. We will also be learning about both local and global sustainability issues. The children will be focussing on the following geographical knowledge and skills:

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Oceania concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

- Identify the position and significance of Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Human geography, including the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Use the four points of a compass to build their knowledge of the wider world.
- Use symbols and key to build their knowledge of the wider world.
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs & digital technologies.

Helping at home – *Please allow your child access to the internet, books and any other resources to find out further information about this topic.*

PE - PE will be on a Thursday and alternate Friday afternoons with JC Sports, so please ensure your child is wearing a full and named PE kit on these days. As we move into spring, we recommend wearing more appropriate clothing for the weather, as we are going to try to keep the children outside as much as possible. It can still get very cold and wet, so please ensure your child brings a pair of warm trousers and a waterproof coat along with a drinks bottle.

Homework – This term the homework will continue to be set to support the children's learning in school and the expectations will be to prepare the children for the increasing demands once they begin secondary school. Therefore, we recommend trying to encourage your child to find a weekly routine that works for your family, so that they are becoming more independent in organising their time. Homework will be set on a Monday by Mrs Carrick and that will be due in on a Wednesday. On a Friday Mrs Holloway will set homework to be handed in on a Monday.

Reading - As stated earlier, it is recommended that your child reads for at least **20 minutes every day.** It is expected that at least 4 x 20min sessions of reading are logged as part their homework. Please ensure your child has their reading diary with them every day, but on a Thursday their Book Points will be calculated and marked on the class display, so it must be in on that day to be checked. Each time your child achieves 30 book points by reading 30 pages or 30 books, they receive a certificate and a prize from Mrs Brown. To try to encourage your children to remember their reading diaries, we have started keeping a record each week. If they are regularly forgetting their diaries and this applies to homework and spelling books too, they miss a playtime.

Spelling - Your child will take part in spelling sessions every week. These sessions consist of a variety of activities. Three or four spellings are given out and tested on a Friday and these should be revised at home. A spelling book will be sent home to practise as homework each week, however, this will need to be in school every Friday.

Arithmetic - Times tables and key skill knowledge is a fundamental part of the Maths curriculum. Therefore, it is expected that children practise their key skills at home. Please allow your child to play games and count to practise their skills. Times tables and key skills will be practised and tested on a Thursday each week. We will also have arithmetic sessions on alternate days to practise and develop these skills.

Times Tables Rockstars is an amazing resource that we encourage you to use with your child at home at least 3 times every week. It is designed to improve their times tables recall speed, which is fundamental to their development in maths, so please do continue to use this at home each week.

You will find a heatmap in the front of their reading diaries, which shows their fluency on TTRS so far. We will print another heatmap at the end of the term, which will hopefully show their progress across the term (less reds, more greens).

CGP Books – We will continue to set pages from the CGP books for your child to complete at home, which will support their work completed in class. We will then look back through the homework together in class, so please ensure they are brought back into school each week.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to our wonderful school. Please do continue to chat to either of us in writing or if possible at the end of the day, if there are any queries you would like to discuss. Alternatively, please phone to make an appointment for a longer discussion.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Carrick and Mrs Holloway
Class Teachers