

Autumn 2017
Class Newsletter
Sierra Leone

Class Teacher: Miss Moore

Welcome back! I hope that you have
all had a wonderful summer holiday
and are looking forward to the new term ahead. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note.

Important dates for Sierra Leone Class:

- Individual school photos – Wednesday 27th September
- Meet the Teacher – Thursday 28th September – 7:00pm
- Half Term – Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October
- INSET Day – Monday 30th October
- Viking Themed Forest School Day – Tuesday 31st October – further details to follow!
- Sierra Leone Class Assembly – Friday 1st December
- Parents' afternoons – Optional drop in sessions will take place on Wednesday 8th, 15th and 22nd November. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns you would like to discuss.

PE:

Our PE lessons this term are on Wednesday and Friday. Gymnastics will be on Friday mornings and Games will be on Wednesday mornings. Games will take place outside, weather permitting. Children should have t-shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and a jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits.
Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week.
All kit should be clearly named, long hair tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions.
As PE is a statutory part of the curriculum, we will require a written note if your child is unable to take part in a lesson.

Homework:

- Reading logs: Please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading at least three times per week and this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading, and is a key dialogue between home and school. Reading logs will be collected on Mondays but should be in school every day.
- Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Each week's spellings will include a particular spelling pattern and some of the Year 4 common exception words.
- Homework: Following on from feedback from both children and parents last year, we have decided to change the format of homework provided for the children. The children will be given a grid containing Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic activities in their homework books. We would like each child to complete five homework tasks in the first half of term and six homework tasks in the second half of term. The children can choose from any of the activities in the grid, however, their choices must include at least two Literacy tasks and two Maths tasks each half term. Further details have been provided in a letter in your child's homework book. This format was trialled by Year 5 in the Summer term and will be used by all of Key Stage 2 this term.
- Please sign your child's homework book weekly to indicate how much help/where help has been given and ensure that it is returned to school each Monday.

Theme for the term – Raiders or Traders?:
We have already been impressed with the enthusiasm that the children have shown for this term's new topic about the Vikings! We will begin our topic work by finding out who the Vikings were, where they came from and why they raided Britain. The children will also be extending their knowledge about what life in the Viking period was like, and learning about Viking warriors, longships, gods and goddesses.

Literacy:
Here are the main themes we will follow during the term:

- Stories with historical settings
- Recounts
- Information texts
- Poetry
- Plays
- Cross-curricular Christmas themed week

Numeracy:
Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child.

- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction including money
- Time
- Multiplication and Area
- Division including money
- Fractions
- Christmas Maths activities

Geometry units (Shape, Space and Measures) will be taught by Miss Lyons on Mondays.

Science:
The children will be learning about Rocks followed by Forces and Magnets after half term. Science will also be taught by Miss Lyons during my PPA on Tuesday mornings.

RE:
Miss Lyons and Miss Turner will be team teaching RE lessons this year on Tuesday afternoons. The children will be exploring the themes of Creation, Incarnation and Sikhism.

Computing:
This term the children will continue to develop their knowledge of programming, using Scratch. They will be developing their problem solving skills and testing, debugging and evaluating programs. We will also be focussing on e-Safety, where we will discuss how to use technology appropriately and the importance of keeping safe online.

Art:
Art will be linked to our class country of the Sierra Leone and predominantly our topic work.

Music:
Music enrichment will be provided for children who did not learn the cornet last academic year. We are awaiting final arrangements from West Sussex Music Service and further details will follow.

MFL:
An update about the teaching of Spanish during Miss Bell's maternity leave will be given at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Thursday 28th September.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an open door policy so if you have any concerns please feel free to pop in and speak to me before or after school. Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007 or arrange an appointment at the school office.

Kind regards,
Miss Moore

Sierra Leone Class Teacher