



Spring 2019 Class Newsletter New Zealand

Class Teacher: Mr Coomber

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new term, I hope you all had a restful and refreshing Christmas period and that you are ready for an exciting term ahead! Thank you very much for the wonderful hamper and gifts that you gave me at the end of last term.

Here is a brief outline of the topics and areas we will be covering during the coming term.

Important dates for New Zealand class:

- Hawking About visit - Monday 14th January
- Class Photos - Wednesday 6th February
- New Zealand class assembly - Friday 8th February
- Half Term - Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February
- World Book Day - Thursday 7th March
- Parents Evenings - Tuesday 19th March (3.30-6.30pm) and Thursday 21st March (6.00-8.30pm).
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Tuesday 2nd April at 2.00pm
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Wednesday 3rd April at 2.00pm
- Last day of term - Friday 5th April

P.E. - this term the children will be doing P.E. on a Wednesday and Thursday each week. One session will be based indoors (Wednesday) - this will be dance taught by me. The other will be an outdoor games session (weather permitting - Thursday) - taught by the Albion in the Community Coaches. Please ensure that your children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have a white P.E. shirt, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in a named PE kit. We are very short on spare PE kits in school, if you have any spare kit that you would be able to donate to the class these would be much appreciated.

Homework:

- Reading logs - please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading three times per week and this is signed and dated in their reading log. In Key Stage 2 we will encourage them to write in their reading logs as independently as possible. 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 in and checked every Tuesday but should be in school every day.
- Reading Challenge - The children have now received their passport. When they have finished reading one of the books from the author or genre line, they can tell me about the book and I will give them a sticker for their passport.
- Weekly spellings - these will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Please ensure your children are practicing their spellings at home each week. There are lots of fantastic apps which can help with this - Spelling Shed and Spelling Bee are recommended. Also attached to this newsletter is a grid of different ideas for how to practice spellings. Any of the activities in the grid can be adapted to your child's weekly spellings.
- Homework - Your child should have now received a grid of homework activities for the Spring Term. Please let me know if you have not received one or would like another copy of this. I will be expecting one piece of homework from your child each week; I will be marking these on a Thursday each week although I am flexible; if you would prefer, hand in a piece a week on a day that suits you. If you have any queries or concerns about the homework or its format, please don't hesitate to ask.
- Times tables - Please ensure your child is practicing their times tables at home each week. In Year 3 we focus on 3, 4 and 8 times tables. The school has signed up to a new website called Times Tables Rockstars which has lots of games to help practice times tables. Your child should have received a letter with details of how to log on to this. If you have not got your log in details, please do come and ask me for another.

Theme for the term - Predators and Prey

Our theme for this term is Predators and Prey, where we will be learning about lots of different types of animals, their lifestyles and their habitats. This topic will be the main theme of our learning across different subjects this term, and we will link our learning to it as much as possible. We will be kicking off our topic with a visit by Hawking About who will be bringing a range of birds of prey in to school to show the children. This will be an amazing opportunity so please do make sure you have returned your permission slip to the office.

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

Theme
Stories, including adventures - based on The Enormous Crocodile
Authors and Letters
Half term
Information Texts
Stories with Familiar Settings - How the Camel got It's Hump

Numeracy – Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child. Our themes for this term will be:

Theme
Fractions
Number and Place Value
Addition
Subtraction
Half Term
Multiplication
Division
Statistics
Shape

Science – Our science this term will be very closely linked to our topic work on Predators and Prey. For the first half of term our topic is 'Animals including humans' where we will be learning about the body and diet of both animals and humans. During the second part of term we will be focusing on plants and how they grow.

Computing – we will be learning how to follow and write simple instruction and codes using computer programmes. We will then move on to designing our own routes and mazes and programming BeeBots to move through them.

R.E. – In R.E we will be continuing our learning about Incarnation and the trinity. We will then move on to learn about Gospel and Jesus' life and followers. After half term we will also be practicing and performing the Easter play!

Art – we will start off our art work this term by learning how to portray relationships in humans. We will then use what we have learnt to show the different relationships between predators and prey.

Music – during our music lessons this term we will be learning how to create different sounds and rhythms related to animals. We will also be spending time practicing our songs for the Easter Play.

D&T – our DT work will focus on creating our own story books and pop ups. We will be designing our own animal themed characters and will then learn how to make a pop up page from a story book based on our character.

Geography – we will be studying physical geography this term and we will be learning about earthquakes, volcanoes, the water cycle and different climates and biomes around the world.

MFL – The children will continue to learn Spanish each week with Miss Bell.

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,

Mr Coomber
New Zealand Class Teacher

Spelling Activities based on Bloom's Taxonomy Six Thinking Levels

Learning Style	KNOW	UNDERSTAND	APPLY	ANALYSE	CREATE	EVALUATE
VERBAL When I read, speak and write I learn	Handwrite your spelling words in three different fonts.	Choose 5 spelling words and use each in a different sentence.	Create an acrostic poem for one of your spelling words.	Create a wordsearch and swap it with a friend.	Use a dictionary to find the meanings of 6 challenging words.	Write 4 dictation sentences using your spelling words.
MATHEMATICAL I am logical and work well with numbers	Write your spelling words in order from least letters to most letters.	Use Scrabble tiles to work out the sum of each of your words.	Play spelling dollars* to work out the value of your words:	Group your words based on the number of letters they have. Then try consonants. Compare.	Place your spelling words into groups. Explain how you grouped them.	Put your words onto a scale from easiest to spell - hardest to spell. Why did you order them that way?
VISUAL/SPATIAL Art, Geometry and visual imagery are important to me	Create a crossword from your words.	Select 5 words and draw a picture for each one.	Put your words into Tagxedo or Wordle.	Rainbow Words - spell words using different coloured markers or crayons for each letter.	Create a cartoon of at least 4 boxes. Write a caption under each image including a list word.	Create an abstract artwork using only your spelling words.
KINAESTHETIC I am hands on and enjoy physical activity	Play celebrity heads with a partner. Give them clues to work out the word.	Play Google Spell Up.	Ball toss back and forth in pairs, spelling each other's words.	Hop on one foot as you spell words - this is a great exercise in balance.	Write a conversation between two people using ten of your spelling words.	Choose any activity from the grid and complete it. Explain why it helped you.
MUSICAL Music and rhythm make sense to me	Record yourself singing your words.	Clap out and record the syllables in each of your spelling words.	Create a tongue twister using your words.	Rap your words - S to the P to the E to the Double L, spells SPELL!	Write a song using your spelling words.	Create a hand clapping chant with a partner and spelling words. Show your teacher.
INTERPERSONAL I work well in groups	As a group, organise your words into categories.	Mystery letters - in pairs write words with missing letters. Try to work out the missing letters.	Choose 5 words and explain to a partner why you chose them.	Partner spell: Take it in turns to spell each other's word letter by letter.	Create a new group spelling activity to help others learn their words.	Write a spelling word and then write at least two words made from the same letters. Example: slide, side, lid, led etc
INTRAPERSONAL I work well on my own	List the words that you find hard and easy and why.	Complete a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check for homework.	Choose 5 words that you have trouble with and write them out 5 times each.	Create a word ladder using all of your spelling words.	Organise your words in reverse alphabetical order, Z-A.	Use your spelling words to write a story. Underline your words in red.