



Mexico Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019



Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a fabulous summer holiday and are looking forward to the new school year? I am very excited to be working with your children in Mexico class.

Here is a brief outline of the topics and themes we will be covering this term, along with some useful points to note. If you need any further information then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

This term's **topic is 'Earth and Space'** so as you can imagine it will be very much science-based and I hope it will engage and excite your children. Please come and hear what the children have been learning in **our class assembly on Friday 13th December 2019.**



Literacy

In Literacy this term we will be looking at

- Non- Chronological reports (Planets)
- Poetry (Blackout)

Spellings will be given out on a Monday and the children will be **tested** on the following **Monday**. Attached is a list of different, fun activities you and your child can use to help them practise their spellings at home.

Maths

This term in Maths we will be focusing on

- Number and place value.
- Addition and subtraction
- Statistics
- Multiplication and Division



Mental and Times tables tests will take place once a week.

Science

The topic we will be studying is 'Earth and Space' and we are very fortunate to have a visit from Herstmonceux Planetarium to help bring this to life.

Computing

The children will be learning to organise, reorganise and develop their ideas using technology this term. They will start by focussing on e-safety and will continue to develop their ability to keep themselves safe when using technology.

R.E.

We will be looking at 'Understanding Christianity' and our first topic will be 'What does it mean if God is Holy and Loving?'. We will be working as a whole year group, building on the experiences and knowledge of others to create a portfolio of the children's collaborative learning. This unit of work is thought provoking and the children will be encouraged to link Christian values to real life examples.

Art

Art will be linked to our science and topic work. We will learn about: sketching, painting and pastel techniques. These will link to the unique characteristics of the individual planets. We will be looking at the Artist Peter Thorpe. Here is an example of his work.

Design Technology

In keeping with our science this term, we will be looking at designing re-entry vehicles and parachutes which we can relate to forces. This will also link with maths and science as we look at Earth and space.



Music

This term, we will be studying one of Britain's most celebrated composers – Gustav Holst. We will be inspired by his masterwork, 'The Planet Suite', to look at contrast and dynamics. The children will have the opportunity to perform their own compositions.



P.E.

The children will have one P.E. session a week. This outdoor athletics session will take place on **Friday afternoon** and will be delivered by Brighton and Hove. Please remember that the **correct P.E kit** should be **in school at all times** and that children need to have plimsolls and outdoor trainers. No jewellery is to be worn, please ensure that all earrings are removed on P.E days if the children are not able to remove them themselves. Please note that trainers are for P.E only and not to be worn as part of the day to day school uniform without prior consent from Mrs Copus.

Swimming



There will be one swimming lesson each week on **Wednesdays at 9am until 10.45am**. The class will be divided into two groups. When not swimming, the children will be supervised in class by a member of staff. They will be given the opportunity to work on four categories. **Reading, Spelling, Times Tables practice and Homework.**

Spanish

Senorita Bell will continue to teach the children Spanish once a week.



PSCHE

In PSCHE we will be following the Islington program which does address more poignant topics of which are becoming prevalent in the children's lives such as 'e-safety, cyber-bullying, sexting and abuse'. . PSCHE objectives will also be integrated into our other curriculum subjects and our class worship.

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Please Note: We are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

A '**Homework Grid**' will be provided to the children each term. This form of homework allows the children more choice in the tasks they complete. We find that it also encourages the children to be independent in their work. The expectation is still that one piece of homework will need to be completed every week. Ideally this will need to be handed in on a **Monday**. More details will be included on a letter when the first homework is handed out.

How can you help?

- 1) Please ensure that your child **learns their weekly spellings and encourage them to learn times tables**....it really does help!
- 2) As part of their weekly homework the children **must read for at least 10 minutes, 3 times a week at home**. The logs will be marked each week on a **Friday**. However, please ensure your child brings in their reading book and log every day. It would be lovely if you could listen to your child read and discuss what they have read. However, I appreciate this is not always possible. Your child might prefer to sometimes read independently. If this is the case, encourage them to record what they have read in their reading log, along with their thoughts on what they have read and any new words they have learned.
- 3) **Support your child** with their weekly Maths, Literacy or topic homework. Make a game of it. Children can be very competitive.
- 4) **Encourage your child** with any work they want to do at home and always try and make it fun!
- 5) **Walking home** - we will require a **written request** from the parent/carer **submitted to the School Office** should you wish your child to walk home after school on their own. Without this we are not able to let your child leave school grounds unaccompanied.
- 6) **Mobile phones** – Should you require your children to carry a mobile phone when in school, they will be asked to submit it to the office upon arrival. It will be stored carefully and returned to the child at the end of the day. Please note that St Mary's will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to the mobile phones.

How can I help?

I am very happy to hear from any parent who may have a concern or who needs any further information. I will be setting up **communication via Class Dojo**, which will allow you to message me privately. Please do sign up to use this facility, I often post notices and pictures of the children's learning. It is a secure site only seen by the parents and carers of our class (further details on this will follow). I am also around most afternoons, after school, if you wish to see me. If you wish to speak to me in greater depth you may also make an appointment to see me, via the School Office.

Thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to getting to know you and your children as the year progresses.

Kind Regards,

Miss Sleat