



# Spring 2021 Class Newsletter Sierra Leone

Class Teachers: Mr Jones  
TA: Mrs Parsons

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful and refreshing Christmas holiday. We have another exciting term ahead! Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note.

Unfortunately, with the latest lockdown measures in place, we are having to experience our learning in most cases remotely. I understand most of you are having to juggle supporting home learning with your own jobs to maintain, and the task is never easy. Please ensure that you set up your own timetable that balances screen time with activities off-screen as well.

This term we are trying to provide you with learning that the children can easily access themselves. The aim is to mirror what the children would be learning in school albeit delivered in a different format.

If you need any support with any aspects of home learning, useful information and links can be found on the school website. Details below:

[https://www.st-marys-pulborough.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/remote\\_learning\\_january\\_2021/530193](https://www.st-marys-pulborough.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/remote_learning_january_2021/530193)

Here is a brief outline of the topics and areas we will be covering during the coming term. Obviously, some of the content refers to teaching conducted in school which may not apply to you whilst you are home schooling.

## **Important dates for Sierra Leone Class:**

- Inset Day – Friday 12th February
- Half Term – Monday 15th – Friday 19th February
- FairTrade Fortnight – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February
- World Book Day – Wednesday 3rd March
- Parents Evenings – Tuesday 17th March (3.30-6pm) and Thursday 19th March (3.30 – 6pm)
- Red Nose Day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Eucharist – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Last day of term – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April

**PE:** We are posting challenges at this moment through Google Classroom – do make sure your child tries to participate.

When we return to school, PE lessons will be on Monday and Friday. Gymnastics will be taught on Mondays and Games will be taught on Fridays. Mrs Burbidge will continue to lead our Games sessions, and these will take place outdoors whenever possible. Please ensure that 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 PE shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits.

## Weekly Expectations:

- **Reading logs** – please continue to ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading three times per week and that 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. Children are requested NOT to bring books to school from the home during the pandemic. We have a wonderful library system up and running and whilst in school children will be selecting their own reading books which will remain in school. A procedure has been put in place to ensure books returned and borrowed from the library are sanitised properly. During lockdown please read any books that you have at home and you can access MyOn to read remotely. If you are having problems with this, please let me know.
- **Weekly spellings** – these will be scheduled on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. Please ensure your children are practising their spellings at home each week. There are lots of fantastic apps which can help with this – Spelling Shed and Spelling Bee are recommended. I have also placed ‘Bloom’s Taxonomy’ spelling sheet onto Google Classrooms which gives you lots of fun ideas on how to learn your spellings.
- **Times tables** – Please ensure your child is practising their times tables at home each week. By Year 4 they should be practising ALL of their times tables and increasing their recall speed. Please use **Times Tables Rockstars** to practise as much as possible. Any games for times table would be beneficial, so please make sure you are practising. There are YouTube songs that could help that you could have playing as well.
- **My Maths, Accelerated Reader, MyOn and Purple Mash are also other websites the children can access to help with their learning.**

## Theme for the term – Around the World:

The children have already shown great interest in this term’s new topic, ‘Around the World.’ We will be working with the text ‘Around the World in Eighty Days’ and finding out more about the countries that Phileas Fogg visited on his travels. This will link closely to our Geography units for this term, in which we will be finding out more about geographical features and climatic conditions in different locations around the world.

**English** – Here are the main themes we will follow during the term:

Theme	
Narrative – based on Around the World in 80 Days	We will also continue with Author of the week
Information text – a country fact file of their choice based on where Phileas Fogg travels	
<b>Half term</b>	
Poetry	
Information text – focus on explorers	

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

Theme	
Division and Place value including decimals (linked to money)	Measurement (Length & Perimeter)
<b>Half Term</b>	
Fractions	Measurement (Money), Statistics
Addition and subtraction including money	

**Science:**

We will be learning about States of Matter and the water cycle.

**RE:**

This term's topics are Sikhism and Salvation. We will also focus on the Easter Story closer to Easter.

**Computing:** This term we will be using Purple Mash and becoming experts at using Logo to focus on our coding and programming skills and then animation.

**Art:** We will be finding out more about different types of art and artists from around the world. We will learn more about the pointillism style of George Seurat and create landscape paintings in the style of David Hockney.

**Music:** We hope to be making use of another scheme of work called Charanga. We will build on their skills of rhythm and beat with the unit that we choose.

**MFL:** We welcome Miss Bell back to teach Spanish on Fridays. Whilst we are learning remotely, she will post a lesson each Friday.

**DT:** In DT we hope to be exploring traditional foods from different locations around the world.

**Geography:** We will continue to develop our knowledge of the world by looking more closely at coordinates and different climates and geographical features in different countries. We will look at the countries that Phileas Fogg 'visited' on his journey.

**Other Important Information**

**Allergies** – we are a nut-free school. We politely request that you ensure your children does not bring nuts into school as a snack or in their packed lunches. This includes any food item that may contain nuts.

**Written permission** – written permission is required annually from you should your child be collected from school by an alternative adult, for example, someone who would be picking up your child from school on an ad-hoc basis. This includes other parents with whom your child may be going on a play date. We do not allow siblings under the age of 16 to collect from school without written request by you and acceptance from the school.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any concerns please feel free to speak with me, ring the school on 01798 872007 to arrange an appointment at the school office. Alternatively email our class email address: [sl@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:sl@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)

Kind regards,

Mr Jones  
Sierra Leone Class Teacher