



Spring 2020 Class Newsletter Ireland

Class Teacher: Mrs Benson

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 gifts and well wishes 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 Ireland class:

- Hawking About visit - Wednesday 15th January
- Clubs begin - Week beginning Monday 20th January
- Sponsored fitness circuit - Thursday 23rd January
- Ireland class assembly - Friday 24th January
- Inset Day - Friday 14th February
- Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February
- World Book Day - Thursday 5th March
- Pupil Reports go home - Friday 13th March
- Parents Evenings - Tuesday 17th March (3.30-6.00pm) and Thursday 19th March (5.00-7.00pm).
- Clubs finish - Week ending Friday 27th March
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Tuesday 31st March at 1.30pm
- Easter Play performed to parents in school - Wednesday 1st April at 1.30pm
- Last day of term - Friday 3rd April

P.E. - the children will be doing P.E. on a Monday morning and a Thursday afternoon each week. The Thursday outdoor games session will be taught by coaches from Brighton and Hove Albion.

Please ensure that the correct PE kit is brought into school and remains in school at all times. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have the correct P.E. kit as per the school uniform policy. This includes, a white P.E. shirt, dark shorts, suitable sports trainers, long dark track suit bottoms and a jumper for outdoors in a named PE kit bag.

Homework:

- **Reading logs** - please 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. Reading logs will be collected in and checked every week but should be in school every day. Children **MUST** have a reading book in school at all times.
- **Weekly spellings** - these will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. 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.
- **Homework** - Your child should now have 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. The homework grid is also on Class Dojo.
- **Times tables** - Please ensure your child is practising their times tables at home each week. In Year 3 we focus on 3, 4 and 8 times tables, although we ultimately aim for the children to know ALL their times tables. The school has signed up to a website called **Times Tables Rockstars** which has lots of games to help practice times tables. You 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. We will also be setting My Maths homework at various points during the term.

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 (consent) 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
Multiplication and Division
Half Term
Fractions
Money
Statistics

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 learning about Gospels and Jesus' life and followers. After half term we will also be practising and performing the Easter play!

Art/PSCHE - 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 practising 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.

Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) - Miss Bell is now on maternity leave and the children will continue to learn Spanish each week with Mrs Vanieris.

Other Important Information

School Uniform - Please ensure that your children are adhering to the school uniform. Trainers are not acceptable as school shoes, boys should wear dark socks (black or grey), and girls should not be supporting frilly, brightly coloured hair accessories (black or navy hair bands only please).

Parent Volunteers - As a school we are grateful for any additional assistance to help further your child's learning. In order to become a volunteer it is required that you undertake a DBS check. This can be arranged with the School Office. In addition to a DBS check you are

required to read and sign the school's Volunteer Policy, which outlines health and safety and safeguarding policies.

Allergies - we are a nut free school. We politely request that you ensure your children do 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 whom your child may be going with on a play date. We do not allow siblings under the age of 16 to collect from school without a written request from you and acceptance from the school.

Snacks - I am delighted to say that the whole of Ireland class continue to bring in a healthy snack to have at break times, thank you for your cooperation and support with this. Please do also ensure water bottles are filled with water and not juice, squash or cordial.

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.

Kind regards,

Mrs Benson
Ireland Class Teacher