



Spring 2022 Class Newsletter

New Zealand

Class Teacher: Miss Heasman

Welcome back!

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

As we move into a new year, unfortunately the pandemic continues to prevail. Please refer to correspondence from Mrs Copus in relation to how as a school we will strive to do our very best and keep the school open, following guidance from the Government, Department for Education and West Sussex County Council. We will continue to request that should your child show symptoms of being unwell, please do keep them at home pending a PCR test.

Hoping everything will continue to go to plan, below is a brief outline of the topics and areas we will be covering during the coming term.

Important dates for New Zealand class:

- World of Work Day – Wednesday 16th February
- Half Term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th February
- Fair Trade Fortnight – Monday 21st February
- INSET DAY – Monday 28th February
- World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March
- Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March
- School Reports – Friday 25th March
- Parents' Evenings – Tuesday 29th March (3.30-6pm) and Thursday 31st March (3.30 – 6pm)
- **online via the school cloud system*
- Easter Eucharist – Thursday 7th April
- Last day of term and Easter Eggstravaganza – Friday 8th April

P.E. – The children will be doing P.E. on a Monday morning and a Thursday each week. The Thursday outdoor games session will be taught by Mrs Burbidge.

Please ensure that the correct PE kit is brought into school and remains in school each week. Kit will be returned at the end of the week so it may be washed accordingly.

All **kit must be clearly named**, long hair must be tied back and **earrings must be removed** for PE sessions. Please note we are unable to remove your child's earrings for them, nor can we provide tape to place over the earrings. 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.

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 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. One book will remain in school, and another can be chosen to have at home. Once completed at home, they may return the book and exchange it for a new one accordingly. A procedure has been put in place to ensure books borrowed from and returned to the library are sanitised properly. Please note you can also access books remotely via the online website MyOn.

- **Homework** – a new homework grid will be placed onto the class pages of Google Classrooms. It is school policy that EVERY pupil should be attempting to submit homework. We believe any form of homework to be beneficial in cementing your child's learning. The homework grid is designed to give your child the choice as to what they would prefer to tackle. Please do NOT bring homework into school, but submit it via Google Classrooms. If there is something special you would like to share with the class, please email the school office or the class email address so we may share it electronically.
- **Weekly spellings** – these will be scheduled on a Monday and tested the following Friday. 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. In Year 3 we focus on all the times tables, with the aspiration they will learn ALL their times tables by the time they enter Year 4. The school has signed up to a website called **Times Tables Rockstars** for which you should all have your individual login IDs and Passwords. Please note that this website is designed to **automatically** move your child on once they have shown their recall time and accuracy are in line with recommendation. Any games for times table would be beneficial, so please make sure you are practising. There are YouTube songs to help that you could have playing as well.
- **Google Classrooms, 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 – Predators and Prey

Our theme for this half of 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 are kicking off our topic with a visit by Hawking About who bring a range of birds of prey in to school to show the children. This is an excellent learning opportunity and one of the best external visits we have to the school. The children are sure to enjoy the experience.

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

Theme
Letters
Stories, including adventures – based on The Enormous Crocodile
Half term
Information Texts
Stories with Familiar Settings

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

Theme
Multiplication and Division, Measurement (Money), Statistics
Half Term
Measurement (Length & Perimeter)
Fractions

Science – The unit of work we will be studying is 'Animals, including humans' where we will be learning about the human skeleton, the body and diet of both animals and humans.

Computing – we will be accessing Purple Mash and learning how to touch-type and then focusing on sending and receiving emails. The children can access their Purple Mash accounts online at home and practise their typing skills or you can use BBC touch-typing.

R.E. – In R.E we will be learning about ‘Gospel’ and Jesus’ life and followers. After half term we will looking at ‘Salvation’, which incorporates Easter festivities.

Art – we will start off our art work this term by looking at predators and prey. Children will be encouraged to generate collages and a mosaic using sketching and observational skills.

Music – We will be using the scheme of work called Charanga. We will be focusing on the song, ‘Three Little Birds’ by Bob Marley. The children will be confidently identifying and moving to the pulse, thinking about lyrics in songs, discussing how songs make the children feel and listening carefully and respectfully to other people’s thoughts about the music.

D&T – our DT work will focus on the human bones and muscles. We hope to be making a model of a human hand from straws and string, but using mechanisms to enable movement in projects.

Geography – we will be studying human and physical geography. We are learning about import and export and later on in the term we will be learning about earthquakes, volcanoes, the water cycle and different climates and biomes around the world.

Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) – Miss Bell will continue to teach the children Spanish each week.

Other Important Information

School Uniform – When in school 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). No jewellery is permitted other than small stud earrings and/or a watch.

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

Snacks – I am delighted to say that the whole of New Zealand 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.

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 a written request from 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, or email me on nz@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Kind regards,
Miss Heasman
New Zealand Class Teacher