



Autumn 2022 Class Newsletter Mexico

Class Teacher: Mr Coomber

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday and you are looking forward to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome the children into Mexico Class this week. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

Themes for the term - 'The World at War' and 'Frozen Kingdom.'

During the first half of term, we will be learning about World War 2. It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for this theme and superb holiday homework. After half term, we will investigate characteristics and features of Polar Regions, and explore the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

English:

Week beginning	Theme
05.09.22	Letters from the Lighthouse: Text familiarisation, prediction and inference
12.09.22-26.09.22	Diary Entries - World War 2
03.10.22	Evacuee Letters
10.10.22-17.10.22	Poetry - The Blitz
24.10.22	Half term
31.10.22-14.11.22	Non-Chronological Report - Polar Animals
21.11.22-05.12.22	Discussion Texts: Balanced Arguments
05.12.22-12.12.22	Consolidation of skills

There will be regular opportunities for free writing to continue to develop the children's stamina in writing extended pieces.

Maths:

Week beginning	Theme
05.09.22-12.09.22	Number and Place Value
19.09.22-26.09.22	Operations: Addition and Subtraction
03.10.22-10.10.22	Operations: Multiplication and Division
17.10.22	Fractions
24.10.22	Half Term
31.10.22-28.11.22	Fractions
05.12.22-12.12.22	Geometry: Position and Direction

Mental Maths, Arithmetic and problem solving activities will all be timetabled regularly.

Science: We will study two main themes this term: Electricity and Light. The children will learn about famous scientists and their significant historical discoveries, with regular opportunities for practical work to explore concepts including circuit function, reflection, refraction and the colour spectrum.

Relationship and Health Education:

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory. For our Autumn term units we will cover 'Growing Up and Changing' which introduces the physical changes that occur during puberty, personal hygiene, emotions and changes in behaviour.

Computing: This term the children will develop their skills in the following areas:

- Coding
- E-Safety

History: We will begin by exploring a timeline of the events that led up to the start of World War 2. The children will use primary and secondary sources to develop their knowledge of D-Day. We will also explore war propaganda, the role of women in WW2 and how warfare has changed over time.

RE: The children will learn about Christianity and world religions through the following three units:

- Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?
- What does it mean if God is holy and loving?
- World Religions: Islam

Art: The children will produce a variety of war-themed art work using a range of media, including pencil, watercolour and acrylic. In the second half of term, we will create animal artwork inspired by the Inuit people based on 'The Enchanted Owl' by Kenojuak Ashevak.

Music: We will listen to and learn a number of Second World War songs. After half term, we will be using the Charanga Scheme of Work to develop the children's skills on the ukulele and being able to read and write musical notation.

D&T: Linking in with our Science topics, the children will design and make a functioning lighthouse!

Spanish: The children will be learning to name the planets in our solar system using a range of adjectives and prepositional phrases, saying what is in our town and writing a Christmas poem. This will be taught by Miss Bell.

Swimming: Swimming lessons will take place on Wednesdays. Please note that earrings must be removed for swimming lessons and children with long hair will require a swimming hat. Other useful items include deodorant (no sprays please) and a hairbrush. Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that sun cream or hair gel are not applied before swimming. It would also be helpful if the children could have sun hats and raincoats to be worn at the poolside if needed.

PE: The children will need their PE kits to be brought into school each week. Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Burbidge on Thursdays, who will be delivering Tag Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning. They will remain in school all week and will then come home to be washed on a Friday. 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.

Dance lessons will be taught in the second half of term when the swimming pool closes for winter.

Important dates:

- Non-Uniform Day for Harvest Fayre - Friday 16th September
- Evacuee Day - Tuesday 20th September
- Individual School Photographs - Tuesday 27th September
- Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 28th September 3:30pm
- Mexico Class Assembly - Friday 14th October
- INSET Day - Friday 21st October
- Half Term - Monday 24th - Friday 28th October
- Parents Evenings - Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th November 3:30-6:00pm (via School Cloud)
- KS2 Open Classrooms - Thursday 17th November 3:30pm
- End of term - Friday 16th December

Homework:

- **Reading logs:** Please ensure your child reads to you or independently weekly and that this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading and is a key dialogue between home and school. My expectation is a minimum of three entries per week. Reading logs will be collected in on a **Monday** but must be in school daily so school-based reading activities can be recorded. All children will be able to borrow books from the school library and our class reading corner. With reading at the heart of our school, we will be encouraging the children to record their comments and personal reflections on their reading material in their log books.
- **Accelerated Reader/MyOn:** We will complete the Star Reading Test each half term. This will provide us with a reading age for each child and which will indicate an appropriate colour band of books at the correct level. All fiction books borrowed from the school library contain a bar code and this should be used to access a quiz once a book has been completed to assess the children's reading comprehension. Accelerated Reader quizzes can be taken at home or at school.
- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. Word lists will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week and spelling books will remain in school. Please use the Bloom's Taxonomy spelling grid which provides suggestions on how to learn spellings in a multisensory way.
- **Homework:** Homework grids will be uploaded to Google Classroom half termly and will be linked to the theme we are learning about in school. All homework should be submitted electronically via Google Classroom. The children can either complete work in their Homework books and upload a photograph or submit an electronic document. I will look at homework each week and feedback will be provided. There may also be opportunities for the children to share homework with the class to share the learning which has been taking place at home and celebrate outstanding work.
- **TT Rockstars and My Maths:**
We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. This has shown a significant impact on the children's fluency, speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication. Please do encourage your children to practise their times tables at home on a weekly basis - daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements.
We will also continue to use My Maths, an interactive online program to support Maths learning, on a regular basis. This provides the children with the opportunity to link homework activities to their class based learning and will enable them to consolidate the skills that have been taught.

General points to note:

Please ensure that the children adhere to our school uniform policy at all times, including appropriate footwear (no trainers please). Boys should wear dark (black or grey) socks and girls should have dark blue or navy hair bands. Large, colourful hair accessories should not be worn to school.

If your child will be walking home independently this year, please could we ask that you provide us with your written consent for this arrangement to both the class email address and the School Office.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Mr Coomber

Mexico Class Teacher

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As part of our topics we sometimes show clips and films that are 12A certified.

Please return the slip to your class teacher if you **DO NOT** consent to your child watching such clips.

Many thanks,

Name ----- Signed -----