



Autumn 2018 Class Newsletter USA

Class Teachers: Miss Lyons and Mrs Martin-Wells

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new term ahead. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note.

Important dates for USA Class:

- Harvest Fayre - Saturday 22nd September
- Meet the Teacher - Wednesday 26th September - 7:00pm
- Year 4 Trip to Drusillas Zoo Park - Monday 1st October
- Individual school photos - Thursday 11th October
- Half Term - Monday 22nd - Friday 26th October
- INSET Day - Monday 29th October
- USA Class Assembly - Friday 30th November
- Lodge Hill Activity Day - Friday 9th November and Tuesday 27th November
- Parents' afternoons - Optional drop in sessions will take place on Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st November.
Please contact the office to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns you would like to discuss.

PE:

Our PE lessons this term are on Mondays and Fridays. Gymnastics will be on Monday mornings and Games will be on Friday mornings. Games will be delivered by specialist coaching staff from Albion Football, and will take place outside, weather permitting. Children should have t-shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and a jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week. All kit should be clearly named, long hair tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. As PE is a statutory part of the curriculum, we will require a written note if your child is unable to take part in a lesson.

Homework:

- Reading logs: Please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading at least three times per week and 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. Reading logs will be collected on Thursdays but should be in school every day.
- Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. Each week's spellings will include a particular spelling pattern and some of the Year 4 common exception words.
- Homework: The new format of homework introduced last year received very positive feedback so will be continued this year. The children will be given a grid containing Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic activities in their homework books. We would like each child to complete six homework tasks in the first half of term and six homework tasks in the second half of term. The children can choose from any of the activities in the grid, however, their choices must include at least two Literacy tasks and two Maths tasks each half term. Further details have been provided in a letter in your child's homework book.
- Please sign your child's homework book weekly to indicate how much help/where help has been given and ensure that it is returned to school each Thursday.

Theme for the term - Rumble in the Jungle:

We are looking forward to beginning this term's fantastic topic in which the children will be learning all about the rainforest! We will begin our learning journey by decorating our classrooms with a variety of rainforest plants and creatures to inspire our learning. Much of our literacy and geography work will be centred around this exciting theme where we will be learning about issues such as deforestation and how to protect rainforest environments.

Literacy:

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

- Persuasive texts
- Stories which raise issues/dilemmas
- Information texts
- Stories from other cultures

Numeracy:

Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child.

- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction including money
- Time
- Multiplication and Area
- Division including money
- Fractions

Science:

Our Science topic for this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats.' This will be closely linked to our Rainforest theme and will include learning more about the characteristics of living things and how they can be classified. We will also investigate the impact that environmental changes can have on living things.

RE:

Miss Turner and I will be team teaching RE lessons this year on Thursdays. The children will be exploring the themes of Creation, Incarnation and Sikhism.

Computing:

This term the children will continue to develop their knowledge of programming, using Scratch. They will be developing their problem solving skills and testing, debugging and evaluating programs. We will also be focusing on e-Safety, where we will discuss how to use technology appropriately and the importance of keeping safe online.

Geography:

We will begin by locating rainforest environments and describing their climates and physical features. We will then be looking at the different layers of the rainforest and understanding the importance of rainforest resources.

Art and DT:

Art will be based on Henri Rousseau and in DT we will be making headdresses inspired by the Brazilian carnivals.

Music:

The children are very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in Samba this term as part of the Music enrichment program! This will be taught by Mrs Eames, a specialist Music teacher, who will visit the school on Wednesday mornings.

MFL:

Miss Bell will continue to teach Spanish to the children. This will take place during my PPA time on Friday mornings.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an open door policy so if you have any concerns please feel free to pop in and speak to me before or after school. Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007 or arrange an appointment at the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Lyons and Mrs Martin-Wells
USA Class Teachers