



Autumn 2021 Class Newsletter Ireland

Class Teacher: Mrs Benson

Welcome back to school!

Oh my goodness me! What a roller-coaster of a ride we've had over the past few years. Hopefully, we're coming to terms with the reality of COVID. It has been good to see your children are settling back into school nicely. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note for this Autumn term.

Important dates for Ireland class:

- Stone Age Forest Schools - Thursday 16th September
- Non-uniform Day - PTA - Friday 17th September
- Individual School Photos - Tuesday 28th September
- Meet the teacher virtual Zoom meeting - Wednesday 29th September
- INSET day - Friday 23rd October
- Half Term - Monday 25th - Friday 29th October
- Flu Nasal Spray Vaccine - Friday 5th November
- Parents' evening virtual school iCloud - Tuesday 5th November, Thursday 11th November
- Christmas Jumper/Accessories Day - Friday 17th December
- Last day of term - Friday 17th December
- Back to school - Tuesday 4th January

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

We will be practising invasion games such as hockey and netball. We will continue to hold as many P.E sessions as we can outside whilst the weather permits.

Please ensure that the correct P.E. kit is brought in and remains in school during the week at all times. P.E. kit will be sent home every Friday to give you the opportunity to have it cleaned and returned to school again the following Monday.

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.

**We are unable to loan any P.E. kit to children nor are they permitted to borrow P.E. kit and trainers from other children in the school.*

Swimming - The children will be having the opportunity to use the school swimming pool up until half term. I am hoping they are very excited at this prospect. We aim to conduct swimming lessons which will be taught on a Friday. Please ensure the children come to school suitably equipped. Swimming costume/trunks, swimming hats, goggles, a towel. If your child has a verruca, please provide a verruca sock accordingly. We require parental written permission if they wish to wear swimming goggles. Please refer to the school office if you have any queries.

We are taking the children to the pool in groups of three. Mrs Treadwell will teach the children, and she will be accompanied by Mrs Castle. Whilst the children are not swimming, they will remain in class where we will be focusing on other areas of the curriculum.

Homework: We expect ALL children to submit homework.

- **Reading logs** - please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading at least **three times per week** and that this is signed and dated in their reading log. Now your child is 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 **every Monday** and returned to the children accordingly.
- **Weekly spellings** - We will be encouraging the children to learn their weekly spellings. Spellings will be placed on Google Classrooms and be available to the children throughout the week. A spelling test

will be conducted on a Friday. I have found that encouraging the children to use their spelling words in their written work during the week has resulted in greater understanding and better attainment.

- **Homework** - this will be given out each half term in a grid format, with one piece expected in from your child each week. They may choose which activities they may like to complete. The homework grid is on Google Classrooms for your child to view. Please **keep your homework at home**. Parents/carers please then **photograph or scan** the children's homework tasks and upload it onto Google Classrooms for me to see and respond to. Should we have the opportunity we will share our homework with the rest of the class at the end of the week.

Topic. As a whole school we are revising the topics that we address in each year group and our topics will be delivered half termly.

Theme for this first half term - The Stone Age

Our theme for this half term is all about the Stone Age and we will be discovering lots about who lived in the Stone Age and what their lives were like. Our Literacy and History units will be based around our topic work and much of our work in other subjects links to the theme where possible. We will be kicking off our topic with a Stone Age Forest Schools session on Thursday 16th September, details of which you should have already received.

The second half of this term - Flow (Rivers)

Teach children about local and world rivers developing their knowledge of river locations, river formation, the water cycle and how to conduct accurate fieldwork.

Literacy - We will be using a range of texts to help our writing this year and will also be continuing to use Talk For Writing throughout all of our literacy lessons. Here are the main themes we will follow during the term:

Theme
Narrative
Persuasive writing (advert, letter or poster)
Stories with familiar settings
Shape Poetry
Poems to Perform

Maths - Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child. We will be following the White Rose Maths Scheme. Our themes for this term will be:

Theme
Number and Place Value
Addition and Subtraction
Multiplication and Division

Science - We will study two main themes this term. Before half term we will be studying Rocks and Fossils, and during the second half of term we will focus on Forces and Magnets.

Computing - Our focus for Computing this term will be on computer coding and e-safety. This is delivered using the school's Chromebooks (a type of laptop) via 'Purple Mash' for which all the children have login ID's and passwords to so that they can practise their computer skills within a safe online environment.

R.E. -We will start our RE learning by studying the Creation Story and what Christians learn from it, before moving on to looking at what the Trinity is. Finally, we will learn about Hinduism and the story of Rama and Sita.

Relationship & Health Education (RHE).

Although as a school we have already been teaching this subject throughout all year groups, this has now become statutory to be taught in all schools. This term we will be learning about the harmful effects of drugs and tobacco and how to recognise bullying. All lessons are age-appropriate and tailored specifically to the year group.

Art - At the beginning of this term, our Art will be linked to our Stone Age topic work. We will then be investigating different patterns, linked to our work in Maths on shape.

Music - Our music this term is focused around one song: Let Your Spirit Fly. The material presents an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch, etc), singing and playing instruments are all linked. Children will also be singing during our whole school Songs of Worship assemblies conducted weekly via Zoom with Mrs Copus.

D&T - Our DT work will be linked to our topic work and we will be making Stone Age jewellery. We will be designing our own items and then creating them using string, clay and shells.

History - In our History we will be looking at the Stone Age with specific relevance to hunters and gatherers. We will focus on a Stone Age village discovered in Scotland, and expand our knowledge on how and where people lived in the Stone Age.

MFL - Our Modern Foreign Language is Spanish and the children will be learning Spanish each week with Miss Bell.

Other Important Information

COVID-19 - As a school we have been making a concerted effort to ensure you are well informed regarding the school's procedures and practices that we are implementing as a direct result of the pandemic of COVID-19. Please ensure you continue to read the school newsletters and email correspondence.

Social Distancing - Please continue to support social distancing by reminding your children that this is still a recommendation within the school, and children are required to stay within their designated zones.

School websites and online apps.

I will be providing you with a list of login ID's and Passwords which your children can use to access websites that support their learning. These websites are:

- Google Classrooms
- Times tables Rockstars
- My Maths
- MyOn
- Purple Mash

School Uniform

Please adhere to the school uniform policy. Hair beyond shoulder length should be tied back with a dark or navy headband. No makeup, including nail varnish, is to be worn in school. School shoes are a requirement, black or dark trainers are not permitted.

Non-uniform leisure wear, such as hoodies, are also not permitted. Should you have any difficulty in providing your child with the required uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will be more than happy to assist if possible.

Contact - unfortunately, during such unprecedented times I am unable to meet with parents or carers in person. However, should you have ANY concerns, please contact me via the class email address: ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk or via the School Office.

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

Snacks - please ensure your child brings a suitable fruit or vegetable snack for their break. Unsuitable items such as large chocolate bars and crisps are not considered to be a healthy snack and will be removed.

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 to 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. This information should be directed to the School Office and not the class email address.

Bullying in School - We have been asked to mention our anti-bullying policy. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated in our school, either physical and emotional. Bullying is 'the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power'. It can happen face to face or online.

I appreciate there has been an awful lot of additional information to contend with of late, and hopefully you have found my newsletter helpful.

If you have any concerns please feel free to speak with me via the class email ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk, or ring the school on 01798 872007.

Kind regards,

Mrs Benson

Ireland Class Teacher

KS2 English Subject Lead