



Spring 2021 Class Newsletter New Zealand

Class Teacher: Miss Heasman

Hello and 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! It was so lovely to meet you all on the first day of term!

Unfortunately, with the latest lockdown measures in place we are having to experience our learning in most cases remotely. I understand most of you are having to juggle supporting home learning with your own jobs to maintain, and the task is never easy. Please ensure that you set up your own timetable that balances screen time with activities off-screen as well.

This term we are trying to provide you with learning that the children can easily access themselves. The aim is to mirror what the children would be learning in school, albeit delivered in a different format.

If you are struggling with any aspects of home learning, there is useful information and links on the school website. Details below:

https://www.st-marys-pulborough.w-sussex.sch.uk/website/remote_learning_january_2021/530193

Here is a brief outline of the topics and areas we will be covering during the coming term. Obviously, some of the content refers to teaching conducted in school which may not apply to you whilst you are home schooling.

Important dates for New Zealand class:

- Inset Day – Friday 12th February
- Half Term – Monday 15th – Friday 19th February
- FairTrade Fortnight – Monday 22nd February
- World Book Day – Wednesday 3rd March
- Parents Evenings – Tuesday 17th March (3.30-6pm) and Thursday 19th March (3.30pm – 6pm)
- Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March
- Easter Eucharist – Thursday 1st April
- Last day of term – Thursday 1st April

P.E. – We are posting challenges at this moment through Google Classroom – do make sure your child participates. When we return to school, the children will be doing P.E. on a Wednesday 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. 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, kept 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 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. 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 which will remain in school. A procedure has been put in place to ensure books returned and borrowed from the library are sanitised properly. During lockdown please read any books that you have at home and you can access MyOn to read remotely. If you are having problems with this, please let me know.
- Weekly spellings – these will be scheduled 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. I have also placed ‘Blooms 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 expectation 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 tables would be beneficial, so please make sure you are practising. There are YouTube songs that could help that you could have playing as well.
- 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 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 would normally be 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. However, due to the recent lockdown as a result of the pandemic we have postponed their visit with the hope we may be able to rearrange this prior to the Easter holidays.

English – 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

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 –For the first half of term our topic is ‘Forces and Magnets’, the second half of the term will be a unit of work that we can link to our topic of predators and prey, ‘Animals, including humans’, where we will be learning about the body and diet of both animals and humans.

Computing – we will be accessing Purple Mash and learning about spreadsheets, and touch typing. Should we have enough time we may also focus on emails.

R.E. – In R.E we will be learning about Gospel and Jesus’ life and followers. After half term we will be 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.

Music – We hope to be making use of another scheme of work called Charanga. We will be focusing on the song, ‘Three Little Birds’ by Bob Marley. We may also provide other music-inspired lessons for home school learning.

D&T – our DT work will focus on human bones and muscles. We will be making a model of a human hand from straws and string.

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 has now returned from maternity leave and the children will continue to learn 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 wearing frilly, brightly-coloured hair accessories (black or navy hair bands only, please).

Allergies – we are a nut-free school. We politely request that you ensure your children does 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 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 written request by you and acceptance from the school.

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.

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 you can email me at nz@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Heasman
New Zealand Class Teacher