

Spring 2020 Class Newsletter

Sierra Leone

Class Teacher: Miss Turner

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a restful and refreshing Christmas holiday. Many thanks for the lovely cards, presents and Christmas wishes I received – your kindness was much appreciated. We have another busy and exciting term ahead! Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note.

Important dates for Sierra Leone Class:
Monday 20th January – School clubs begin
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February – Half Term
Friday 28th February – Sierra Leone Class Assembly
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
Friday 13th March – School Reports sent home
Tuesday 17th March – Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm
Thursday 19th March – Art Activity Workshop: Petworth House to visit
Thursday 19th March – Parents Evening 5:00–7:00pm
Sunday 29th March – Easter Play performance in church 10:30am
Tuesday 31st March – Easter Play performance at school 1.30pm
Wednesday 1st April - Easter Play performance at school 1.30pm
Friday 3rd April – Easter Eggstravaganza Activity Day, last day of Spring term

PE: This term PE lessons will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. Dance will be taught on Tuesdays and Games will be taught on Wednesdays. The coaching staff from Brighton and Hove Albion will continue to lead our Games sessions, and these will take place outdoors whenever possible. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week. 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.

Homework:

- Reading: Please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading three times per week and this is signed and dated in their reading logs. 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 once a week but should be in school every day.

- Spellings: These will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. There is a wide selection of strategies for learning spellings in a multi-sensory way on the Bloom's Taxonomy grid which we have attached to this email. The grid was sent home last term – please let me know if you require another copy.

- Homework: A new homework grid has been provided in the children's homework books this week. This term, we would like the children to complete six pieces of homework in the first half of term and six pieces of homework in the second half of term. Please sign your child's homework book weekly to indicate how much help has been given and ensure that it is returned to school each Thursday. The first piece of homework should be handed in on Thursday 16th January. The children should spend no longer than one hour on their homework each week.

- 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 practice their times tables at home on a weekly basis – daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements.

  The Year 4 Multiplication Check is statutory from this academic year and all of the children will complete this in June. By the end of Year 4, they are expected to know all times tables up to 12 x 12. The children will complete this assessment on iPads where they will be presented with 25 multiplication questions and have 6 seconds to respond to each. We will ensure that they have plenty of time to familiarise themselves with the format of the test before the assessment takes place. The following link provides an example of the format of the Multiplication Check: https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check

  We will continue to use My Maths, an interactive online program to support Maths learning. This provides the children with the opportunity to link homework activities to their class based learning and enable them to consolidate the skills that have been taught. Activities will be set on a weekly basis.
  Please ask if you have any questions or would like any advice regarding Times Tables or MyMaths.

Theme for the term – Around the World:
The children have already shown great interest in this term's new topic, 'Around the World.' We will be working with the text 'Around the World in Eighty Days' and finding out more about the countries that Phileas Fogg visited on his travels. This will link closely to our Geography units for this term, in which we will be finding out more about geographical features and climatic conditions in different locations around the world.

Literacy:
- Narrative
- Poetry

Numeracy:
- Multiplication and division
- Place value including decimals
- Fractions
- Addition and subtraction including money
- Geometry – Position and direction
- Measures – Area and perimeter

Science:
We will continue with our Electricity topic before moving on to learning about States of Matter and the water cycle.

RE:
This term's topics are Gospels and Salvation. We will also be busy preparing for the Easter play which we look forward to performing at the end of the Spring Term.

Computing: This term we will be covering multimedia and e-safety. We will also be improving our researching and fact finding skills during our topic work.

Art: We will be finding out more about different types of art and artists from around the world. We will learn more about the pointillism style of George Seurat and create landscape paintings in the style of David Hockney.

Music: Our focus this term will be learning and performing songs for the Easter Play.

MFL: Mrs Vanieris will be teaching weekly Spanish lessons during Miss Bell's maternity leave. These will take place during my PPA time on Wednesday afternoons.

DT: In DT we will be exploring traditional foods from different locations around the world.

Geography: We will continue to develop our knowledge of the world's continents and oceans before comparing climatic conditions in polar and tropical regions with the United Kingdom.

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 Turner
Sierra Leone Class Teacher