



Spring 2019 Class Newsletter USA

Class Teachers: Mrs Martin-Wells and Miss Lyons

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and enjoyed all the festivities. We would like to say thank you to everyone for all our Christmas gifts and cards - your kindness was much appreciated.

We wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019.

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 USA Class:

Monday 21st January - School clubs begin

Friday 25th January -USA Class Assembly

Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February - Half Term

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Friday 8th March - School Reports sent home

Tuesday 19th March - Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm

Thursday 21st March - Parents Evening 6:00-8:30pm

Tuesday 2nd April - Easter Play performance at school 2:00pm

Wednesday 3rd April - Easter Play performance at school 2:00pm

Friday 5th April - Easter Eggstravaganza Activity Day, last day of Spring term

PE: This term PE lessons will be on Monday and Friday. Dance will be taught on Mondays and Games will be taught on Fridays. The coaching staff from Brighton and Hove Albion will continue to lead Games sessions on a Friday, 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 every Monday but should be in school every day. Mrs Copus has launched a new reading challenge this week which will be running throughout the term as we approach World Book Day in March. Each child has been provided with a reading passport and they will receive a stamp for each book that they read. There will be prizes for each class for the child that reads the most books overall and the child that reads the most books from a particular genre line from the London Underground reading display.
- **Spellings:** These will be sent home on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. 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 10th January. The children should spend no longer than one hour on their homework each week.

- **Times Tables:** As a school we have signed up to be part of TT Rockstars. You should have received a letter home with login details for your child at the end of last term. Daily practice of even 5 minutes will show improvements in their times tables. This can be accessed via a computer or an app that can be downloaded (more details are in the TT Rockstars letter). We will continue to complete times table activities on a weekly basis in class; regular practise will help to develop their speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication. Once your child can confidently recall the times table that they are working on in order, please encourage them to learn the multiplication calculations in a mixed up order and then the related division facts. There are lots of resources available online (games, songs etc) to help the children become more confident with their tables in a multi-sensory way. Please do ask if you would like any more advice.

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:

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

- Poetry
- Stories set in imaginary worlds
- Recounts

Numeracy:

- Place value including decimals
- Addition and subtraction including money
- Measures including time
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions
- Geometry - Shape, Space and Measure
- Statistics

Science:

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

RE:

RE will be taught by Mrs Martin-Wells and Miss Turner on Thursdays. This term's topics are Gospel 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.

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.

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

Kind regards,

Mrs Martin-Wells and Miss Lyons
USA Class Teachers