



4th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back! 2018 will be an incredibly exciting year for your children, both here at Netheravon and as they move on to secondary school later in the year. I always enjoy the Spring term as it is often when children, having settled in class and with the excitement of Christmas behind us, really make great progress with their learning. From our great start in terms 1&2, I know Cherry Class are ready to do the same! We also have Church services, sports events, lunchtime clubs, assemblies, trips and off-site learning to look forward to this term, and towards the end of term 4 I will have another opportunity to discuss progress with you at parents' consultations.

Already this year I have been very pleased with how members of Cherry Class have risen to the challenge of being in Year 6, leading the school and giving their own time to support both teaching staff and younger children and I know they are keen to continue this.

The information in this newsletter outlines what we aim to cover between now and Easter. Please visit the weekly class blog at:

<http://netheravoncherry.primaryblogger.co.uk/>

for more information and pictures about what we have done and will be doing each week.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ross Nashwalder

English:

We will start this term by looking forward, thinking about the exciting things happening in 2018 and writing New Year's resolutions, before moving on to writing linked to our volcanoes and earthquakes topic, and to our study of Charles Darwin in science. Text types covered this term will include: stories (planning and writing disaster stories based on a volcanic eruption); newspaper reports (including 'interviews' with witnesses, linked to earthquakes in Nepal); explanation/ information texts (discussing the movement of tectonic plates); formal & informal letters (to and from Darwin as he travelled on HMS Beagle).

We will have regular opportunities for independent writing to enable the children to practice and demonstrate the skills they are developing, as well as discreet learning on grammar, punctuation and spelling patterns. This term we will think carefully about each part of sentences, both naming and using types of word within a sentence and learning about how word order can be manipulated to enhance meaning; an example is the use of active & passive voice, which we will learn about. (Or perhaps, passive voice will be learned about by Cherry Class.) (**You can't beat a passive voice joke!*) As well as recapping modal verbs, we will develop this area of grammar to introduce and identify the subjunctive form of verbs. (Note: The website below has a useful grammar dictionary if you would like to check what any of this means! www.theschoolrun.com/primary-grammar-glossary-for-parents)

We will practise the -ough spelling pattern (T4) and develop our knowledge and confidence identifying and selecting correct homophones (T3). I will continue to send home a spelling list each week that combines some Y5/6 spelling words, some spelling pattern words and some topic words. These should be practised using look/ cover/ write/ check and handed in with homework and will be tested on Friday morning. I hope by now the children are regularly reading at home for pleasure. Please continue to discuss with your child what they are reading and record this at least three times a week.

Maths:

In term 3 we will develop the children's understanding of concepts with number to include very small numbers using decimal numbers up to three decimal places. This will include using place value to multiply and divide integers and decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1000, and to complete addition, subtraction, multiplication and division questions using decimals. We will compare decimals, fractions and percentages, will calculate using percentages and will solve problems including all of the above. We will develop our understanding of algebra, learning about simple formulae, about numerical sequences and about the n^{th} term in a sequence.

In term 4 we move on to think about the mathematics of measurement. Firstly we will recap and apply the conversion facts between metric units including mm, cm, m, km for length, g and kg for mass and ml and l for volume, and also units of time. We will also introduce and apply conversion facts between miles and km. We will develop our knowledge of perimeter to include compound shapes and circles, area to include triangles, parallelograms and circles and we will introduce how to find the volume of shapes. Finally we will learn about calculating using ratio and solving problems involving uneven sharing.

Key aspects of the curriculum that are very important to master are arithmetical calculations. We regularly practise using these calculations in class, and the maths passports also support this learning. The class are working very well on their maths passports; we will continue to practise and test these key number facts weekly. We have a stock of practise sheets in the classroom that children are able to take home to use whenever they wish and I have allocated the relevant Abacus tasks for your child's passport.

Science:

Linking to previous work on species classification and variations between species, we will recognise that living things produce offspring of the same species, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. We will identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways, how adaptation may lead to increased chances of survival and reproduction, and that adaptation may lead to evolution. We will recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago and can provide evidence for evolution. We will consider the work of palaeontologists such as Mary Anning and learn about how Alfred Wallace and Charles Darwin developed their ideas on evolution. We will analyse the advantages and disadvantages of specific adaptations, such as being on two feet rather than four, having a long or a short beak or having brightly coloured and scented flowers.

R.E.:

During term 3 we will learn about Buddhism. We will find out where Buddhism originated, about special places linked to Buddhism and about key festivals in Buddhist life. We will also learn about symbols in Buddhism, the Buddhist holy book and the main beliefs held by Buddhists. In term 4 we will learn about the Jesus' resurrection and how this links to the Christian concept of salvation. This will link to a special RE day prior to Easter when we will explore Jesus sacrifice for our salvation, and why this is important to Christians.

Art:

Cherry Class will continue to use a range of media to create artwork linked to our volcano topic. We will begin by creating fiery pictures combining colour, pattern and texture to create effects.

Geography:

This term we will learn about the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features including environmental regions, countries and major cities. We will identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night). We will learn about both the physical origins of volcanoes and earthquakes, considering movement of the Earth's tectonic plates, and also the impact of these events on the human population. We will use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and cities, and to consider why certain areas of the globe are more prone to tectonic activity. We will also use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build our knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.

Computing:

Much of our use of information technology and computers will be integrated into other aspects of the curriculum. We will use the iPads, laptops and a number of computers in the classroom to enable us to do this, and to give the children experience using word processing programs and the internet with increasing confidence. We will re-visit the online programming tool, Scratch, and Lego-based devices 'WeDo', before combining the two to use computer based codes to manipulate physical systems in order to achieve a particular objective. We will also develop our understanding of computer networks and how computers and devices communicate with each other.

D.T.:

In DT we will design, build and evaluate volcano rescue buggies to traverse uneven mountainous terrain.

P.E.:

As last term, PE will usually be on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon, though may be subject to change in the event of very poor weather or other school events. Between January and Easter our P.E. will include: gymnastics, tag-rugby, football, orienteering, golf and lacrosse. Many of these activities will lead into inter-school festivals within the next few months. For both hygiene and safety reasons, and for good practise before they start secondary school, please ensure your child has the correct kit in school to change into at all times. Kit should be as follows:

- ◆ Plain white t-shirt (additional to normal school uniform polo shirt)
- ◆ Plain black/ navy shorts and/or tracksuit trousers (depending on weather)
- ◆ Trainers (& socks if needed).

Spanish:

Spanish lessons this term will develop children's vocabulary and ability to compare and express preferences, focussed on the themes: occupations; hobbies; food (specifically breakfast). We will work on understanding the Spanish we encounter, both in spoken and written form, and developing our ability to construct meaningful phrases.

P.S.H.E

Throughout our learning in all subjects we will focus on the British values of: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. This will be particularly emphasised through our trip to the Houses of Parliament & corresponding democracy workshop and our activities in school supporting this opportunity.

Music:

Children will have music lessons on a Friday afternoon with our music teacher, Mrs Gooding.

Homework:

Each term, the children will be given a homework grid with a series of tasks to complete in any order and hand in, one each week. As some tasks will take longer than others this should give the children the opportunity to manage their own time, completing longer tasks when time is available. These tasks support and extend various aspects of the curriculum. Some tasks will have supporting documents or worksheets while others will require independent research. I will also continue to assign maths passport tasks and spelling lists each week. Reading records will also be collected and checked weekly. Please continue read at home with your child regularly, at least 3 times a week. As children become more fluent, confident and independent readers this may develop into more of a discussion about the text they are reading. I would be delighted to receive any book reviews of completed books too.

Homework is both set and handed in on Friday every week. From the 2nd missed homework onwards (i.e. persistent failure to complete on time), Friday morning playtime will be reserved for extra tasks, with the original homework still due.

Terms 3 & 4 important dates:

Thursday 4 th January	TD Day
Friday 5 th January	Term 3 starts
Monday 15 th January	Y6 badminton festival
Wednesday 17 th January	County football finals
Thursday 1 st February	Swimming gala
Wednesday 7 th February	Y5/6 hockey festival
Friday 9 th February	Term 3 ends
Monday 19 th February	Term 4 starts
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day
Thursday 8 th March	KS2 gymnastics festival
Wednesday 14 th March	London trip
Late March TBC	Parents consultations
Late March TBC	Parents consultations
TBC	Y5/6 tag-rugby festival
Wednesday 28 th March	Easter service in church
Thursday 29 th March	Term 4 ends