



Cherry Class Spring Term Newsletter

16th January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We have a busy term ahead; please see the table overleaf for an outline of our areas of study in terms 3 and 4.

Already the children are responding well to our afternoons of working together with Sycamore Class, and this has promoted some good collaborative learning. We will of course keep this under constant review.

I hope this letter will give you some useful reminders, information on the learning planned for this term as well as ideas for ways in which you can support your child's learning at home.

Yours sincerely

C.E. Carpenter

Living on the Edge: Volcanoes and Earthquakes

The children will be finding out about what causes these natural disasters as well as researching their impact on communities all over the world. We will be researching the famous eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD and writing stories and descriptions based on that fateful day from the perspective of the residents of Pompeii. In DT the children will be designing and making battery controlled buggies to transport first aid to the base of the volcano!

Homework

A reminder that homework includes: learning spellings for a test on Friday; learning a Maths Passport target which is also tested on Friday and reading at home at least 3 times a week (recorded in your child's reading record). Regularly working on these key skills greatly supports your child's ability to access the curriculum in class.

PE Kit

PE will take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Some sessions will take place outside so please be prepared with layers.

Children in Upper Key Stage Two are encouraged to adopt an independent approach to support them in learning to organise themselves appropriately. This means there will be consequences for repeatedly forgetting homework or PE kit.

Please see the table below for an outline of our areas of learning in terms 3 and 4:

Subject	Term 3 Before February Half Term	Term 4 After February Half Term
English	We will be writing our own disaster stories focussing on the use of ambitious and descriptive vocabulary, and building cohesion across our narratives. We will write explanation texts about volcanoes and earthquakes looking at the structure of this text type and choosing vocabulary specific to text type.	We will creating factfiles about Pompeii and Vesuvius before moving onto newspaper reports about the eruptions and the devastating effects they had. Within both of these topics we will be looking at the layout devices, using formal language and a wider range of punctuation.
Maths	Decimals: place value in decimal numbers with up to 3 decimal places; problem solving involving multiplying and dividing decimals. Percentages: calculate percentages of amounts; recall and use fraction, decimal and percentage equivalents. Algebra: use simple formulae, generate and describe number sequences; find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknowns.	Measurement and converting units: solve problems involving calculating with and converting units of measure; convert between miles and kilometres. Area, perimeter and volume: calculate area, perimeter and volume; recognising when formulae can be used; calculate the area of parallelograms and triangles. Ratio: solve problems involving unequal sharing and grouping; solve problems involving a scale factor.
Science	Light Finding out about how we see things and investigating light, shadows and reflection.	Electricity Building circuits, drawing circuit diagrams and finding out more about electrical safety.
Computing	Scratch Animation	Spreadsheets and databases
History/ Geography	Living on the Edge: Volcanoes and Earthquakes	
PE	Gymnastics Basketball	Orienteering Tri-Golf
Art/ Design Technology	Art Range of pieces linked to volcanoes.	DT – Race to the Volcano Design and make a battery controlled buggy to travel over a rocky terrain.

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Religious Education	What would Jesus do? Relate biblical ideas, readings and beliefs to issues, problems and opportunities of their own lives and to the world today. Closer to <u>Easter</u> , we will explore the question: What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?	
Spanish	Expressing likes and dislikes Food Hobbies and sport	
Music	Macbeth The children will be learning songs based on Macbeth by Shakespeare	Macbeth The children will be learning songs based on Macbeth by Shakespeare

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How to help your child at home:

Firstly, please support and encourage your child to complete their spelling, reading and maths passport homework. Speedy and accurate recall of times tables will be a priority for any children working on North America or Africa passports so please practise these targets often; knowing times tables inside out has a huge impact in your child's ability to carry out calculations and solve problems in class.

Any reading you can do with your child around our Living on the Edge topic would be beneficial. It is always lovely to hear children contributing their own knowledge and research to lessons. Any pictures, models, writing etc. can be shared with the class and displayed.

To support our ongoing work in computing, please regularly speak to your child about internet safety.

Arithmetic papers

The children will soon be sent home with a booklet containing a selection of arithmetic test papers. There is one test per page and the questions are similar to those which the children will experience as part of their SATs tests which take place in May. Mrs Cocks asks that the children spend 10 minutes a week at home working on one test which will be marked in class on Friday. If they are unsure how to answer any questions they can leave them out. This will really help to build up the children's speed and fluency



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when calculating and help to show which areas we need to focus on in class.