



Dear Parents,

We have lots of exciting things planned for this term and look forward to sharing them with all the children.

A few reminders for this term:

- It is important that home reading folders come to school every day. As well as changing books when required, they are also read in class most days. Please make sure that you record in the reading record every time your child reads with you, or their books will not be changed.
- Water breaks are incredibly important for the children. Children should have a clearly named water bottle every day.
- The early bird morning tasks are a wonderful way for children to consolidate learning, discuss issues that they may have had in a previous lesson and begin their day with a positive routine. They run between 8.45am and 9am. We would like to encourage as many of the children as possible to take part in these activities and look forward to seeing you all at 8.45am.

### English

Our first topic this half term will focus on the wonderful work of Beatrix Potter. Children will be looking at her, the nature of her characters and her use of language that evoke memories of the past. Children will then have an opportunity to plan their own tale in an historic setting.

After that, we will delve into the realm of Knights and Castles. We will investigate traditional fairytales, looking at the relationship between the good character and the villain. Children will enjoy role play activities and a specialist workshop at Windsor Castle, before writing their own fairytale.

The children will continue to revise and extend their knowledge of spellings and sounds. We would like to encourage you to practice the reading and writing of the **tricky words**. These can be found at the back of your homework books.

Grammar will focus on suffixes, prefixes and past tense. We will also continue to revise adjectives, nouns, verbs and punctuation.

### Maths

In maths, we are learning to extend our knowledge in the areas of:

- Estimating, counting, comparing and ordering quantities
- Addition and subtraction by recall of facts and mental calculations
- Multiplication and division through repeated arrays
- Fraction of quantities, shape and objects.

- 2D and 3D shapes

An important aspect of mathematics is to apply this knowledge to problem solving and investigations. This means that a component of mathematics taught must be to reason, question, reflect and discuss strategies in order to answer questions.

### **Topic**

Topic encompasses geography, history, art and design technology. This term our topic is "Plant a Little Seed". We will investigate the life and works of the wonderful Beatrix Potter. Children will look at both her written work and her passion for landscape painting. We will spend time comparing and contrasting the landscape of the Lake District and to that of The Chilterns. Children will have the opportunity to use water colours to create a view of the Chilterns.

In the second half term we shall move on to Castles. After a visit to Windsor Castle, children will explore the features of a medieval castles and the lives of kings and queens in medieval times. As part of our art sessions we shall look at the artist Paul Klee and create our own interpretation of his work 'Castle and Sun'.

### **Science**

This term we are linking our science lessons to our topic 'Plant a Little Seed'. We will consider the life cycle of a plant and all the things a plant needs to grow. We will then use our knowledge to create our very own 'Mr. McGregor's' garden. We will consider the positive environmental outcome of growing our own fruit and vegetables and set up our very own, plastic free, Little Missenden Farmers market in the second half term. We would ask any keen gardeners, or anyone with seed or plants that they would like to donate, to come and chat to the Mrs. Downie or Mrs. Stockdale.

### **R.E.**

In this half term we shall be investigating the big question: Can stories change people?

Children will investigate their favourite stories and discuss how it impacts the reader. They will then look to stories of the Bible and consider the message that they are trying to teach. Children will explore the strengths of the characters and why people look to the Bible for answers.

### **Computing**

This term's computing links to our exciting topic 'Plant a Little Seed'. The children will be introduced the coding app Scratch Junior. They will begin to understand the term algorithm and the features of the app. They shall then begin to create their own programme in order to create a growing plant animation.

### **Art**

In Art, will study the landscape work of Beatrix Potter, using watercolours to create our own landscapes of The Chilterns. We will then move on to explore the work of Paul Klee, creating our own version of his famous work 'Castles'.

## PE/Games

PE is on Mondays. Owl Class will also we have to opportunity to take part in several sports festivals at Holmer Green School. The sports festivals are a wonderful chance for your children to work with pupils from others schools and use a wider variety of sports equipment.

## Other Information:

Music will continue to be taught by Mrs. Tullie on Wednesdays and Chef will be cooking up a storm in the kitchen with the children on Thursdays.

Mrs. Stockdale teaches on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs. Downie teaches on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs. Clifford will support teaching on Friday afternoons.

## Library

The children are given the opportunity to choose a library book from the school library on a Tuesday afternoon. This has been happening for a little while now, so please encourage your child to read this book and return it to change on a Tuesday.

## Homework

### **Reading and spelling continue to be the focus of our homework in Owl Class**

Reading books will continue to be changed as children require. We encourage changing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please continue to record in your child's reading record every time you read with them.

New spellings continue to be given out every **Monday**. We encourage the children to practice their spellings every day using the look, cover, write, say and spell method. We would also like them to practice using the words in a sentence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Emma Downie' and the second is 'Mrs Stockdale'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Downie & Mrs Stockdale