



Walnut Class Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2016

Dear Parents

A belated happy New Year to you all. Since the Christmas break, children in Walnut Class have settled back into their routines. To help you support your child's learning, here is an outline of the curriculum that Walnut Class will be covering this term.

You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and targets during parent / teacher meetings on 22nd and 23rd March.

English

Reading Year 3 and Year 4 are important years for children to become fluent readers, widening the range of books they choose. They need a healthy balance of support from parents and teachers combined with independent reading. Please help your child to read to you and independently at least four times a week and ask them questions about what they have read.

Writing: We will be learning about myths from different countries and writing quest stories based on fantasy worlds. We will also look at recounts for non-fiction writing as well as writing and performing poetry. The children will continue to strengthen their knowledge of word types and punctuation through the different text types and individual grammar and punctuation lessons.

Maths

Times tables - We are having a big push on **learning tables** through weekly Frog Club - by the end of Y3, children should know their 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables; by the end of Y4 they should know all the tables up to 12. Children also need to practise using their tables to work out division problems, e.g. $5 \times 7 = 35$ so $35 \div 7 = 5$ and $35 \div 5 = 7$.

Place value will progress to larger numbers and strengthening mental addition and subtraction skills. We will be revisiting fractions of shape and quantity and progressing onto adding and subtracting fractions. The children will work on their knowledge of capacity, volume and mass. Towards the end of the term, we will revisit 2D and 3D shapes, position and direction. Throughout the term, we will be looking at time and solving one and two step problems.

Science

Forces - Identify pushes & pulls as forces & explore how things move on different surfaces which will involve investigations through scientific enquiry. We will find out about attraction & repulsion by magnetic forces & which materials are magnetic. Look at compasses & uses of magnets. Carry out some enquiries using magnets.

Computing

The children will continue to develop their typing skills and knowledge on how to use search engines safely and effectively. The children will design animations by giving a 'sprite' instructions and investigate basic coding.

PE

Skip to the beat: Explore different ways of skipping and practise techniques learned in previous years. Children will observe and comment on others' performance and be aware of safety aspects concerned with skipping.

Continued overleaf.....

Invasion Games (Hockey): Children will have the opportunity to learn and develop the skills required in hockey and apply these skills to game situations. They will comment on their own and others' performance and provide feedback for improvement.

RE

The children will look at famous figures from the Bible. They will study the key messages and the impact these messages have on Christians.

History

Invaders and settlers - Anglo-Saxons

Our topic this term will develop children's knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons and help them understand how this important group fits into the chronology of Britain.

Art and Design

Art - Pop Art

The pupils will look at the work of other artists and sculptors. They will use ideas and inspiration from Pop-Artists to produce pictures, paintings and models in this style.

Music

The children will continue to learn the Ukulele.

French

The children will be learning about numbers in French and songs about greetings.

Design and Technology

Food - The children will learn about different food from around the world. Research dishes then design an appealing product before making the product, selecting and using a range of ingredients.

General Information

Water Bottles - Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day to help concentration and focus.

Class Timetable

PE - Please can children have their PE kit in school for PE on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Spelling - Still tested on Fridays.

Homework - It is still set on Tuesdays and has to be returned by the following Monday. Please sign the sheet at the front of your child's homework book when you have checked that all the work is complete. We are encouraging the children to take more responsibility and pride in their homework.

Additional support at home

- Continue to learn the times tables at home.
- Also, please help your child to tell the time - using a digital and analogue clock.
- Please encourage your child to read regularly and discuss what they have been reading as often as possible.

Please remember that parents' evenings are on March 22nd and 23rd. Thank you for your invaluable support. It makes so much difference to your child's success.

Mr Charles