

Thursday 11th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your families – hoping you all had an enjoyable Christmas break.



In Science this term, our topics are 'Light' and 'Electricity'.

The focus for Term 3 will turn to 'Electricity', revision of electricity symbols will be undertaken and then these symbols used when representing a simple circuit in a diagram. Children will create circuits and compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs (number of cells used and voltage), the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.

In term 4, the second part of the spring term, children will revise how light appears to travel in straight lines and they will be able to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. They will look at the structure of the eye and investigate how we see things. They will also explore light and colour and learn why shadows have the same shape as the objects which cast them. Children will explore light reflection from flat, concave & convex surfaces & refraction when light passes from one material through another. Children will investigate which surfaces reflect light best & use mirrors to bounce torch beams & use an online kaleidoscope.

Our topic focus for humanities will be 'The Aztecs'. Children will learn about the Aztec Empire and how the Aztecs came to be; also, how to place the Ancient Aztec civilisation in time. They will be taught about Aztec family life and homes, leisure activities, the Aztec calendar and how it is different from the modern day Gregorian calendar. Religious elements of their lives will be looked at including relationships with the gods and the influence on their lives. They will research Cortez and his impact on the Aztecs. Our history learning will also connect with our Art work, where we will study and recreate masks used in the celebration of 'The day of the Dead', build an Aztec temple and make Aztec jewellery.



A useful reference website aimed specifically at pupils is <http://home.freeuk.net/elloughton13/aztecs.htm>

Please note we would be grateful for any junk modelling resources – boxes, tubes, pots etc.

Geography will look at countries in South America, their land use, population, currencies, leisure and tourism etc.

The topics for PSHCE are 'Going for Goals' and 'Good to be me' - both themes focus primarily on the key aspect of motivation, with a subsidiary focus on self-awareness. It gives an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. The themes provide opportunities for the children to reflect on themselves as individuals, particularly their strengths as learners and how they learn most effectively. Pupils will be thinking about their futures and possible career opportunities and writing letters to seek more information on their interests. In RE, children will be exploring the question 'What is it like to be a Muslim in Britain today?' – this is an enquiry-based unit, so the children will have an opportunity to investigate their own particular areas of interest in relation to this.

Class Maths for Elm pupils will have a focus on revision, mental maths strategies and methods of solving problems with speed and efficiency.

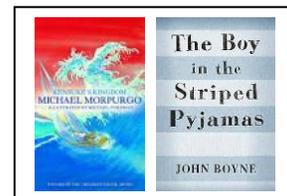
Our Literacy texts for this term will be 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. We will be focusing our learning on these texts, with the addition of weekly sessions on spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG), including a weekly 'big write' task – to extend our writing skills. The expectation is that pupils will have read to certain pages each week, please support us with helping your child with this as it will aid their discussions and understanding in lessons. They have tried really hard with this in terms 1 and 2 – keep it up Elm class!

A useful website for support in grammar is Grammar Monster and this can be found at: <http://www.grammar-monster.com/>

Please note that the children will participate in Tai Chi and dance sessions this term, with Hockey resuming in Term 4.

Some useful dates for your diary:

12 th Jan	Pantomime Visit – Marlowe theatre
19 th Jan	Home learning re-starts
9 th Feb	Class to Safety in Action Morning – details to follow
12 th Feb	Half Term week
1 st Mar	World Book Day
9 th Mar	Reports home
14 th /15 th March	Parents' Evenings
29 th Mar	Tag Day – End of term 4



Mrs Ladd will continue to teach on Mondays and Tuesdays with Miss Gee teaching from Wednesday through to Friday, whilst Miss Powney resumes her support role. The class will also be supported this term by Miss Katherine Lawless a third year teaching student from Christchurch. Support from you would once again be most welcome in the form of continued encouragement with home learning, reading and any additional activities that are sent home. I hope you have found this useful – Termly high frequency spelling list is on the reverse.

Kind Regards,

Leah Gee