



# Spring 2023 Class Newsletter Japan

Class Teacher: Miss Callender

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

## Themes for the term:

Spring 1 - Explorers and Adventurers: *Curriculum strands: Diversity, Exploration and Innovation, Geology*  
We will be discovering lots about habitats and environments, famous explorers and how the Earth has developed over time.

Spring 2 - Exploring Africa: *Curriculum strands: Beliefs, Diversity, Society and Culture*

We will learn about Africa past and present and the development of the slave trade. This topic also explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora.

## Important dates:

- Half term - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 6 SATs Information Meeting for Parents (Zoom) - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 3:45pm
- Fairtrade Fortnight - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Sibling Photographs - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February
- World Book Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Science Week - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- School reports go home - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- KS2 Open Classrooms - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 3:30-4:30pm
- Parents' Evenings (via School Cloud) - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Japan Class Assembly - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Eucharist, Easter Eggstravaganza Activity Day and end of term - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

## English:

The units to be covered this term are:

- Biography
- Narrative
- Persuasive Writing - letter and campaign
- Poetry

## Maths:

This term, we will be covering the following units:

- Fractions
- Decimals and Percentages
- Algebra
- Measure: Conversion, Area, Perimeter and Volume
- Ratio

We will continue to timetable mental maths, arithmetic and problem-solving activities regularly.

**Science:**

We will continue with our learning on 'Light' followed by 'Living Things and their Habitats.'

**Relationship and Health Education:** Our units for the term are 'Identity, Society and Equality' and 'Healthy Minds' (Mental health and wellbeing focus).

**Computing:** This term we will be looking at E-Safety and Spreadsheets.

**Geography:** During the first half of term, we will explore how to interpret maps to learn about physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and rivers. In addition, our coverage of human geography will include types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links.

**History:** Our focus for the second half of term will be a non-European study about the history of Africa.

**RE:** Our first topic for the term is Islam. This will be followed by Christianity units 'Gospel' and 'Salvation.' These topics will build on the children's previous learning from 'Understanding Christianity.'

**Art and DT:** In Art, we will begin with creating portraits of Ernest Shackleton and will then paint landscapes and learn about perspective. Our DT unit is 'Around the World,' which involves planning a trip around the world using digital technology.

**Spanish:** The children will be learning to talk about where they live, including different locations, types of building, a range of rooms, and using positive and negative versions of some key verbs.

**PE:** Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Burbidge on Thursdays, who will be delivering volleyball and tennis. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning. They will remain in school all week and will then come home to be washed on a Friday. All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have PE shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits.

**Homework:**

- **Revision for Year 6:** As we approach SATs in May, we will provide the Year 6 children with revision activities to complete at home. More information about the structure and expectations for this will be shared at the Parents Information Meeting.
- **Reading logs:** Please ensure your child reads to you or independently weekly and this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading and dialogue between home and school. My expectation is three entries per week. Reading logs will be collected in on a **Monday**. Please encourage your children to complete Accelerated Readers quizzes when reading books are completed.
- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. We will continue to share word lists on Google Classroom at the start of each week.
- **Homework:** Half termly homework grids will be shared on Google Classroom. Please ensure that your child gets into the routine of submitting one piece of homework from the grid each week.
- **TT Rockstars and My Maths:**  
We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our times tables learning. Please do encourage your children to practise their times tables at home on a weekly basis - daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements. MyMaths will be updated regularly with work related to our class based learning and will enable the children to consolidate the skills that have been taught.

**Important Information:**

Please note that we are a nut-free school. We politely request that you ensure your children do not bring nuts into school as a snack or in their packed lunches. This includes any food item that may contain nuts. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address [japan@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:japan@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk) or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Miss Callender

Japan Class Teacher