



Autumn 2023 Class Newsletter Mexico

Class Teacher: Mr Coomber

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer holiday and you are looking forward to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome the children into Mexico Class this week. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering this term and some helpful points to note.

Themes for the term - 'Into the Unknown' and 'Peasants, Princes and Pestilence.'

During the first half of term, we will be venturing into the universe and exploring the elements of our Solar System. After half term, we travel back in time to the dark and deadly world of 14th century Britain where the children will develop their knowledge of this period. We will learn about life in medieval times and will be studying the effects and impact of the Black Death.

English:

Week beginning	Theme
04.09.23	Guided Reading Focus: Phoenix
11.09.23-25.09.23	Science Fiction Narratives
02.10.23-09.10.23	Non-chronological Reports: Pandora
16.10.23	Poetry: Cosmic Disco
23.10.23	Half term
30.10.23	Personification Poems
06.11.23-20.11.23	Persuasive Writing: The Peasant's Revolt
27.11.23-11.12.23	Time Slip Stories: The Children of Winter

There will be regular opportunities for free writing to continue to develop the children's stamina in writing extended pieces.

Maths:

Week beginning	Theme
04.09.23-11.09.23	Number and Place Value
18.09.23-25.09.23	Operations: Addition and Subtraction
02.10.23-09.10.23	Operations: Multiplication and Division
16.10.23	Fractions
23.10.23	Half Term
30.10.23-25.11.23	Fractions
01.12.23-08.12.23	Geometry: Position and Direction

Mental Maths, Arithmetic and problem-solving activities will all be timetabled regularly.

Science: During the first half of term, we will be learning about 'The Earth and Space.' After half term, our Science topic will be 'Forces.'

Relationship and Health Education:

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory. For our Autumn term unit Year 5 will cover 'Growing Up and Changing' which introduces the physical changes that occur during puberty, personal hygiene, emotions and changes in behaviour.

Computing: This term the children will develop their skills in the following areas:

- Databases
- Game Creator

History: We will be studying the book 'Hidden Figures' and discovering facts about famous people during Black History Month.

RE: We will begin the term by revisiting 'The Big Story of the Bible,' and developing our understanding of the key concepts in Christianity. We will then explore the topic of 'Incarnation.' After half term, we are fortunate to be welcoming the 'Bible Explorers' group, who will lead a sequence of lessons developing the children's understanding of a wide range of Bible stories through drama.

Art: The children will produce an abstract space painting inspired by the work of artist Peter Thorpe using a variety of materials and techniques.

Music: We will be finding out about the life and work of the composer Gustav Holst and exploring his famous orchestral suite 'The Planets.' The children will explore how mood and atmosphere can be portrayed through the rhythms used by Holst to represent each of the planets and will describe their personal responses to the piece.

D&T: We will be developing our woodwork skills and making artefacts from medieval times.

Spanish: Our Autumn term topics are Body Parts, Transport and Christmas. These will be taught by Miss Bell.

Swimming: Year 5 and 6 Swimming will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays (one session per week) on a three weekly rotation. Wednesday sessions will be taught by Mrs Callender (Weeks A and C) and Thursday sessions will be taught by me (Week B). Please note that earrings must be removed for swimming lessons and children with long hair will require a swimming hat. Other useful items include deodorant (no sprays please) and a hairbrush. Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that sun cream or hair gel are not applied before swimming. It would also be helpful if the children could have sun hats and raincoats to be worn at the poolside if needed.

PE: The children will need their PE kits to be brought into school each week. Outdoor PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Callender on Thursdays, who will be delivering Hockey and Netball. 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. Gymnastics lessons will be taught in the second half of term when the swimming pool closes for winter.

Important dates:

- South Downs Planetarium Visit - Tuesday 19th September
- Harvest Eucharist - Friday 22nd September (please send a gift for FSW - tins, dried food, toiletries etc)
- Year 6 Bikeability Week - w/c Monday 25th September
- Individual School Photographs - Tuesday 26th September
- Meet the Teacher - Tuesday 3rd October 3:45pm
- Mexico Class Assembly - Thursday 19th October 9:00am
- Half Term - Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October
- Parents' Evenings - Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November 3:30-6:00pm (via School Cloud)
- KS2 Open Classrooms - Thursday 7th December 3:30pm
- End of term - Friday 15th December

Homework:

- **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 is a key dialogue between home and school. My expectation is a minimum of three entries per week. **Reading logs will be checked daily.** Please ensure that they are brought into school so that home reading can be rewarded and school based reading activities can be recorded. All children will be able to borrow books from the school library and our class reading corner. With reading at the heart of our school, we will be encouraging the children to record their comments and personal reflections on their reading material in their log books.
- **Accelerated Reader/MyOn:** We will complete the Star Reading Test each half term. This will provide us with a reading age for each child and will then indicate an appropriate colour band of books at the correct level. All fiction books borrowed from the school library contain a quiz sticker and this should be used to access a quiz once a book has been completed to assess the children's reading comprehension. Accelerated Reader quizzes can be taken at home or at school.
- **Weekly spellings:** These will be set each Monday and tested on the following Monday. Word lists will be uploaded to Google Classroom each week and spelling books will remain in school. Please use the Bloom's Taxonomy spelling grid which provides suggestions on how to learn spellings in a multisensory way.
- **Homework:** Homework grids will be uploaded to Google Classroom half termly and will be linked to the theme that we are studying in school. All homework should be submitted electronically via Google Classroom. The children can either complete work on paper and upload a photograph or submit an electronic document. I will look at homework each week and feedback will be provided. There may also be opportunities for the children to show their homework in class to share the learning which has been taking place at home and to celebrate outstanding work.
- **TT Rockstars:** We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. If the children can confidently recall their tables, this will have a significant impact on their fluency, speed of recall and accuracy when using written methods for multiplication and division. Please do encourage your children to practise their times tables at home regularly - daily practice of even five minutes will quickly show improvements.

General points to note:

Please ensure that the children adhere to our school uniform policy at all times, including appropriate footwear (no trainers please). Boys should wear dark (black or grey) socks and girls should have dark blue or navy hair bands. Large, colourful hair accessories should not be worn to school.

If your child will be walking home independently this year, please could we ask that you provide us with your written consent for this arrangement to the class email address and the School Office.

Please remember that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children with severe nut allergies. Please make sure you child doesn't bring in any foodstuffs containing nuts.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via the class email address or by telephone.

Kind regards,

Mr Coomber

Mexico Class Teacher

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As part of our topics we sometimes show clips and films that are 12A certified.

Please return this slip to your class teacher if you **DO NOT** consent to your child watching such clips.

Many thanks,

Mr Coomber

Name ----- Signed -----