

Anderson Class Newsletter Autumn 2017

Welcome to Anderson Class! We hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. Our class patron is Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Britain's first female doctor, a woman who represents the values of determination, hard work and resilience: a perfect set of qualities that we shall be promoting throughout the year. This term, we have lined up some wonderful learning opportunities for the children that we can't wait to begin!

Topic this term

AD900

In topic, the children will be comparing the Mayan empire in Central America with the Vikings in Britain during AD900. We shall compare the cultures and achievements of these two civilisations as well as the causes of their downfall.



As part of the topic, we have arranged a visit to the Jorvik Centre on Friday, October 13th which will include an additional workshop on battle tactics. You will be receiving more details soon.



Maths

This term, we will be revisiting number systems and the formal calculation methods for the four operations. Along with the rest of the school, we shall be adopting a Mastery approach to teaching mathematics. This will focus upon deepening the children's understanding of key mathematical concepts and problem solving. This will be achieved through the greater use of practical apparatus as well as developing the children's talking and thinking skills.



It is essential that your child continues to practise their times tables at home so that they can recall instantly these number facts which are such a vital part of many aspects of mathematics. In addition, we shall be using the Transum Times Tables activities regularly in class. You can view these activities at www.transum.org/Tables/Times_Tables.asp and use them at home with your child to support their progress.

Teachers

As well as myself, your child will be treated to the expertise of a number of teachers this year. English and Maths on Monday mornings will be taught by Mrs. Bruce, while the class will be taught Spanish by Mrs. Lennon and PE by a PE specialist on Monday afternoons. In addition, our Teaching Assistant will be Mrs. McLaughlin, who will be in class three mornings per week, while Mrs. Bruce will be supporting small groups of children in Maths and English during the week.

English

In English, we will be developing the children's spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as their story, letter and journalistic and report writing skills. Our class reading book will be the highly-acclaimed novel *Holes* by Louis Sachar. We shall be using this to focus upon extending the children's vocabulary as well as their inference skills.



Reading and Spelling Journals

The front of these green books will be used by the children to log all their independent reading as well as to record new or exciting vocabulary so that they can remember it for their own writing. We would like the children to read every day at home and are grateful for your support in encouraging this. The back of the journal will be used as a spelling work book to support Mrs Bruce's lessons on Mondays. It is therefore essential that your child remembers to bring the book into school every day.

PE

This term, Anderson Class have PE on Monday and Thursday afternoons. We kindly ask that the children have the appropriate full kit on these days as this is an important part of the curriculum.

In addition, we shall be participating in the *Daily Mile* at least three days per week. The children will be expected to walk, jog or run for 15 minutes around the school field or playground in the hope of completing a mile. It would be beneficial if the children could keep suitable footwear, such as trainers, in school all week for this activity.



Planners

The children will soon be receiving their new planners. These contain a daily diary to help them to be more organised. The planner will be used to record important messages as well as additional homework tasks. They also contain valuable learning information such as world maps and copies of the times tables. We hope you will agree they will be a useful aid, especially for the Year 6 children as they prepare for secondary school where similar planners are used.

Thank You

Thank you for continuing support. If you wish to speak to me to discuss your child's progress and well-being, please see me after school and I can arrange a convenient time to meet with you.



Homework Menu

The school has introduced a new system of homework tasks. Children will be able to choose from a "menu" of activities and have a certain amount of "money" that they have to spend on these activities each week. The tasks will be divided up into small, compulsory *Starters*, one *Main Course* per week and optional *Chef's Specials*, with a *Sharing Platter* of tasks to do as a family if they wish. We expect the children to spend about 30 minutes on the *Main Course* task—which will be linked to our Maths, English or Topic learning—although some enjoy spending much more!



Given the increased expectations in Year 6 and in preparation for high school, they may be given additional tasks during the week, increasing in frequency as the year progresses. We value your support in ensuring it is completed on time and ask that you sign your child's planner to say that you have seen their homework.

General Information

School Uniform

Please support us in making sure the children come to school every day in the correct school uniform. Full details of this can be found in the school prospectus. Please remember that no make-up, including nail varnish or mascara is permitted and the children will be asked to remove it.

It is also important that if children change their shoes for playtimes, for example to play football, they have a clean, black pair of shoes to change back into in the classroom.

Water Bottles

Every child should have a named water bottle that is kept in the classroom for access during the day. Please remind your child to take this bottle home every evening for washing!