



Anderson Class Newsletter Spring 2018

Happy New Year everyone!

We hope that you had a happy and peaceful Christmas and are looking forward to a fabulous 2018! We would like to thank all of you that gave us gifts at the end of term - they were very much appreciated!

Ms Woolgar and Mrs McLaughlin

Topic

Our new topic will be *Out of Africa: Evolution and Inheritance*. Life started in the seas 3.8 billion years ago but evolved over time until today the Earth is teeming with millions of different species of microbes, plants and animals, including our own species. Our topic will look at the evidence for evolution from fossils, the structure of DNA as the blueprint for life and the processes which lead to the diversity of life on Earth today.



Uniform

We kindly ask that you check that your child is coming to school in the correct uniform with regards to shoes, trousers, jewellery and make-up(blue jumpers and no leggings please).

Children should also remember to take home their water bottles at the end of every day for washing.

Homework

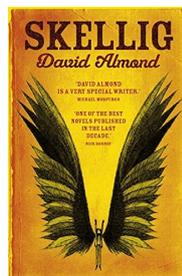
As the time for SATs rapidly draws near, the Year 6s will be working on developing 'test techniques'. We will cover some of this in lessons and some at study club on Tuesdays after school.

Each child will also begin to receive SATs – style questions to work on at home. These need to be done neatly and carefully, in 'test' conditions. These will be sent home during the week and will be marked in school with the children during study club, so need to be handed in by each Tuesday.

In addition, we expect all children to be both reading and practising their times tables at home at least three times a week. The children should know all of their times tables at speed up to 12 x 12 and so it is essential they continue to practise. There will be additional homework tasks from time to time to support learning in Maths, English and Topic. I am attaching copies of the Year 3 / 4 and 5 / 6 statutory spelling lists for your information to help your child with their vocabulary and spelling.

English

There will be strong English links to our topic through biography and information writing in science. Following the very positive response from the children to the book *Holes*, our new class reader will be the highly-acclaimed fantasy book *Skellig* by David Almond. In English lessons, we will further develop the use of higher order punctuation such as colons and semi-colons, as well as enhancing the children's vocabulary and grammar and creative writing skills.



Maths

This term, the class will continue to practise their formal calculation methods alongside learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and converting measures. These methods rely heavily on a sound knowledge of times tables. There will also be plenty of opportunities for problem-solving and data-handling in science.



P.E.

P.E. this term will be on Mondays and Thursdays. Please remember that the school's PE kit consists of a plain white t-shirt and dark leggings or joggers.

Stay and learn

We hope that you will be able to come along to our Stay and Learn sessions this term on Wednesday 24th January and Thursday 1st March both at 8:45am and lasting about 20 minutes. If there is anything aspect of the curriculum you would like to know more about (e.g. written calculations in maths / grammatical terms) , please let me know and we will try to include this in these sessions.

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.

As we approach this vital time in your child's school career, it is essential that your child's attendance is as high as possible. Please note that even after the SATs tests in May, the children will be doing a huge amount of work producing a number of pieces of extended writing, prior to the final writing assessments being submitted at the end of June. I therefore urge you not to book days off or holidays during this time.