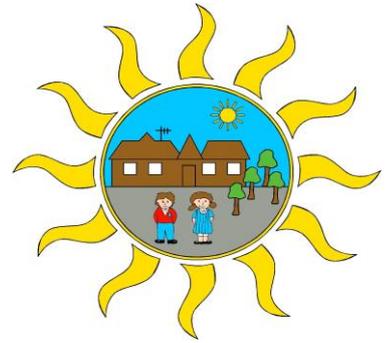


# STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Headteacher**  
Mrs Sally Dreckmann

January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Spring term, I hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break. Having got through my first term unscathed(!) I hope that we will all make even greater strides this term. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for making me feel welcome in our fantastic school community, and I look forward to speaking to you again throughout these coming 11 weeks or so.

This term's topic is titled **Best of British**. Obviously this could be a mammoth topic, so I have picked a personal favourite area to focus on; the growth of the railways and how they have become an integral part of our transport network. I'll talk more about this later.

## **Maths and English lessons**

Children will be mainly taught in ability groups for most of their Maths and English lessons. This is to enable us to best meet the requirements of the individual children. Where possible, some areas within these lessons may be linked to our topic.

In English, we shall be looking at *The Railway Children* as our text. We will use the story to: write character profiles; look at the structure of a story; look at vocabulary to make the text exciting and keep a readers' interest; use of punctuation and finally write our own short stories based on the text. We'll also look at newspaper writing and persuasive writing, using the closing of Midhurst station as our stimulus. We'll finish the term looking at traditional and performance poetry basing our written poetry on plants. While the grammar and punctuation side of this subject will be integrated into every lesson taught, children will have one explicit grammar and punctuation lesson a week to help them understand the technical side of writing. They will have spellings to take home each Tuesday. There will be one session a week on guided reading, to help the children develop their skills in decoding and comprehending the text. Your continued help to hear the children read at home is still greatly appreciated! Targets for their reading will be set and highlighted and again, any help towards achieving these would be fantastic.

Across the term in maths we shall be covering multiplication & division, money, fractions and decimals and properties of shapes while maintaining the basics of place value throughout. Children will continue to have times tables to learn each week and an informal test will be given to check their times tables knowledge every Thursday. I have implemented a rainbow system, with each colour having two times tables with increasing difficulty. It is expected that the children will be able to both multiply and divide using their times tables knowledge.

## **Art**

We will be looking at the flower-based works of Georgia O'Keeffe, building on the watercolour work done last term. I have entered a competition run by Chichester Cathedral titled This Earthly Paradise, and I would like to be able to send as many pieces to be entered as possible. If you do not want your child's work entered, or would like more information about the competition, please do ask.

### **Languages (French)**

In French we will be building on last term's work on numbers, and introducing new topics including the alphabet, the body, colours and shapes. Again, the main focus will be building fluency and vocabulary to use in speaking and listening and writing exercises.

### **Computing**

Computing will see the children developing coding skills using Scratch. I know some of the children are fairly competent with the program and they may well teach me a thing or two!

### **PE**

Children need to have their PE kit in school every day please. As usual one lesson a week (Thursday) will be taught by Aspire. We will also be doing gymnastics this term, looking to create sequences using balances, different ways of travelling, jumps and rolls.

### **History**

As I said earlier, History will be based around a British study. We will be going through the history of the railways from 1830, looking at the development of the steam locomotive, the growth of the railway into a national network, the impact of this growth and finally the development of locomotives from steam to electric. We will also build on the children's critical thinking and being able to develop an argument based on historical sources.

### **Geography**

Geography will look at the UK, specifically locating cities, counties and rivers in the UK, finishing with a short study of the human (towns, buildings etc.) and physical (relief, rivers, lakes etc.) geography of the Lake District. This will also encompass the skills of map and compass reading and using 4- and 6-figure grid references to locate areas of interest.

### **Science**

Science this term will be split across the two half terms. First up, we'll be looking at sound. We'll discover how sound is made, how we hear sound and how to create different volumes and pitches. We'll investigate the most effective way to soundproof using materials to absorb sound and we'll make music, creating our own pitched musical instruments. After half term we will be looking at plants, specifically naming the parts of a flower, what plants need to grow and the life cycle of a plant from pollination to fertilisation.

### **Music**

Music will enhance the children's work in Computing and poetry, looking at communication in digital media and poetry in song.



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As said earlier, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping the children learn their times tables, spellings and hearing them read. There will be time every day for the children to quiet read and to change their book if needed. Please also continue to keep practising times tables and spellings at home. This is a short and fully packed term and one that I am certainly looking forward to and I hope that my enthusiasm rubs off on the children and we can put together some amazing work that they will be proud to share with you. Just a reminder that I do operate an open door policy, so if there is anything you wish to discuss with me do pop your head in in the morning or collar me at the end of the day.

Thank you again for your continued support, and I look forward to the speaking with you through the term.

Mr Cella

*Thanks!*



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