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Co - Headteachers: Mrs B Dyson and Mrs L Foley

Together we care, inspire  
and achieve excellence

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope that you and your children have had a wonderful summer, made the most of the holidays and, having re-charged your batteries, are ready for the year ahead. As a new member of staff, I am certainly excited about getting to know all of you and the children who are in Holst class this year. We have a busy term in front of us and it is great to see children coming back full of enthusiasm and creative energy.

Below you will find an outline of the teaching and learning that will be taking place in Holst class this term.

**English:** The children will be imagining and writing their own stories. We will start with stories based in familiar settings. Later on in the term, we will look at stories in historical settings, using the book, "Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age", for inspiration. Our non-fiction writing will focus on labels, lists, signs and posters and some of this will be taught in connection with our science or topic work to ensure it is as relevant to the children as possible. In poetry the children will have the opportunity to sing and join in with repetitive phrases, to learn and perform poems and to write their own versions of a range of silly and list poems.

**Maths:** This term we will begin by looking at geometry and positional language. We will then move onto 'more and fewer', and making estimates, before introducing addition and subtraction. We will also work on building understanding of place value and the meaning of 'tens' in two digit numbers. In our unit on time children will compare and sequence intervals of time, begin to tell and write the time to five minutes and know the number of minutes in an hour and the number of hours in a day. In our unit on measure we will look at measuring height, length and mass, and making estimates.

**Topic Work:** Our topic this term is From the Stone Age to the Iron Age, and I am particularly excited about our visit to Celtic Harmony which will enhance our learning in a very fun and hands on way. Details about our visit on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** will be sent home shortly. We will begin our topic by looking at timelines in history. From there, we will develop an understanding of how life in Britain changed from the Stone Age period through to the Iron Age. Children will begin to understand the scale of time involved and the different sources of evidence which we can use to learn about prehistory. Our role play area has been turned into a Stone Age cave where children will have the opportunities to create their own Stone Age wall drawings. The children will be introduced to the significant changes which occurred over the time period.

**Science:** This term our focus will be rocks (including fossils and soil) and forces. In the unit on rocks the children will develop their vocabulary for identifying, describing and comparing rocks. Children will also be sorting rocks based on observed properties. We will also be finding out how fossils are formed and how these provide us with information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.



In the unit on Forces, the children will gain an understanding of the different forces in action, investigating how different things move and investigating the impact of friction when considering how the Stone Age community managed to move great lumps of stone! This will lead nicely into an enquiry session on finding the most suitable area in and around school for the Stone Age community to build a house - developing many of their investigative skills.

**Design and Technology/Art:** There are many activities to enhance our learning about the prehistory era. In Art we will be studying the great cave paintings of the Stone Age and imitating this style to produce paintings for our own cave! Wild weaving with twigs and different coloured wool will also be explored. Our main DT project is Free Standing Structures where children will have a go at making their own Iron Age hill fort.

**Religious Education:** This term the children will be exploring the topic of thanking God for nature and why Christians celebrate Harvest. We will then be looking at how Jewish people believe we can mend the world, before moving onto the topic of incarnation and why Christmas matters to Christians.

**Computing:** iConnect - Internet safety will be an important focus this term and we will be looking at how to use technology safely and respectfully.

**PE:** Matt, our coach from Pathways will continue to teach Holst class outside games on Wednesday and I will be teaching children gymnastics on Tuesdays in the hall.

**PSHE:** Our topics in PSHE this term are *Me and My Relationships* and *Valuing Differences*. We will begin by thinking about what our ideal classroom looks like, before moving onto expressing our feelings and then discussing issues around friendship and bullying.

Holst class's library day will be a Thursday. Your child will have the opportunity to explore and become familiar with the school's library by carrying out relevant activities. They will also be able to select a book to take home but must remember to bring it back on a Tuesday so it can be changed.

Talk Talks will take place on a Friday. A separate letter has been sent home to explain this.

This term Holst class has a new member - Snowy. The children will each have the opportunity to take him home to have some adventures. In return I would like the children to write a recount of what they got up to with Snowy in our class book. Your child will be selected at random but if you have a day out planned or a special celebration that you would like to share with Snowy then please let me know.

Reading is an important part of your child's home learning and your child should be reading every day. Please ensure the reading books are recorded in the Home School Diary and that you or a suitable adult signs when your child has read to you.

The children will continue to have a daily spellings or phonics session. Information will be sent home each week so you are aware of your child's focus - this might be a particular spelling rule, phoneme or a list of common words to be learned. This homework will be stuck into their diary but, for Year 2 children, a separate spelling book will also come home with the relevant common words to be learned. A weekly test will take place each Monday.

Your child will also have a sheet of home learning tasks linked to our topic. This homework is not a strict requirement but children may like to attempt some of the tasks. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children's learning to be enhanced in a way that inspires and motivates them and I am often impressed by the quality and creativity of what is produced. Please support your child to produce a piece of learning which they are proud of and have enjoyed completing.

Mathletics will be set every Wednesday and the children will have a week to complete it. A sticker will be put in your child's diary to inform you of the tasks set. Please ensure you sign your child's diary once the Mathletics home learning has been completed and feel free to write any comments as appropriate.

In Year 2 children will also begin to learn their Times Tables. The expectation for Year 2 children is to be secure with the following Times Tables facts by the end of the academic year: 2, 5 and 10.

There is an awful lot of information to digest in this letter so if anything is unclear and you need clarification, or you need to talk with me at all, please don't hesitate to see me after school or if longer is needed, please do make an appointment via the school office.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Meet the Teacher session on Monday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.50pm.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Vesey