

COTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

ISHBEL COLEMAN - HEADTEACHER



Key to learn, flourish and forgive.

Emerald Class Curriculum Letter - Spring Term 2019

Topic

Our topic this term will be Village Settlers. This will be geographically based, as opposed to historical as with the Anglo-Saxon topic we explored last term.

Activities will include; finding out about the needs of early settlers and the origins of place names; identification of a range of mapping symbols and an understanding of their meanings and developing an understanding of how settlements are sited and connected.

English

In English, we move our thoughts to non-chronological report writing as we immerse ourselves in Emily Gravett's award winning book, 'WOLVES.' A change of genre will lead us up to half term as we explore the magical world found inside 'Leon and the Place Between', a beautiful book by Angela McAllister. Alongside our writing, we will continue to teach spelling strategies in regular sessions and children will be given spellings to learn, in line with the spelling rules explored that week. We understand that spelling is a skill that, for some, requires mnemonics to support their learning (because - **big e**lephants **can a**lways **u**nderstand **s**mall **e**lephants), for others repetition and rehearsal works best whilst others need to see words presented in different ways (e.g. pyramids). Any spelling support you are able to give to your child on a regular basis has a hugely positive impact on their retention and recall and will contribute enormously to their attainment. Grammar will also continue to be taught throughout each English unit.

Please continue to encourage your child to talk about their English non-negotiables with you - these include capital letters, full stops, and question marks to name a few!

In addition to engaging in reading activities across the curriculum, children will read with an adult in guided groups and we will endeavour to hear individual children read as often as we can. Any shared reading will be communicated in your child's reading record. We are looking to introduce reading comprehension a little more this term as it further supports the children's ability to infer and predict in respect of what they are reading.

In class discussions we will continue to encourage children to think about books at a greater depth and to make inferences and deductions from the text. It is vital your child reads with you regularly at home - a mixture of reading aloud, reading silently and being read to is ideal. Even for those children who are already confident readers, these skills are all very useful. We would appreciate it if you could record in your child's reading record when you share reading with them.

Science

In science this half term we will enter the fascinating world of plants as we explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants. You never know...might lend itself to another opportunity to write non-chronologically!

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Maths

Between now and half term we will be developing our understanding of multiplication and division. We will use a variety of mental and written methods to develop mathematical fluency, extending children's mathematical vocabulary and their use of formal methods to multiply increasingly larger numbers where mental strategies are no longer efficient. Children will continue to be encouraged to reason mathematically, and solve problems involving the maths they are learning. After half term we enter the 'forbidden' world of fractions and decimals! We are acutely aware that this area within maths can be particularly daunting for some children (and parents!) but we are confident that we can develop the children's conceptual understanding sufficiently so that they grow to love them!

We will also be aiming to further improve, or consolidate, children's immediate recall of their times tables (up to 12). For children who are fully secure in their recall we will develop their use of these to solve related facts.

We value your support in practising tables at home and ask that you help your child to be able to recall individual random multiplication and division facts, rather than learn each table in order.

RE

In RE this half - term we will be thinking about the enquiry question, 'Who was the prophet Muhammad?' In the run up to Easter we will consider why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'.

PE

This half term we move indoors where we will be dancers and gymnasts! A quick reminder that DancEd will be working with us exploring Anglo-Saxon life culminating in the opportunity to share their creativity with other primary schools at the Comberton Village College dance share in March. Gymnastics, involving the use of hand held apparatus (moving to the wall bars, ropes and trapeze assuming all goes according to plan!) will take place on Tuesday afternoons so please make sure your child has their PE kit in school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It may be easier to ensure PE kits are in school every day....just in case! Please can we ask those of you that have not yet contributed your £10.00 to support the DancEd enrichment activity to do so at your earliest convenience. The preferred method of payment is through Agora.

Art and Design

Whilst last term saw us weaving and melting crayons, time ran away with us meaning we didn't get the opportunity to design or create illuminated manuscript letters. However, we will be doing exactly that this half-term, guided by the calligraphy expertise of Coton resident Penny Price. Penny will be joining us (during the week commencing January 28th) to share her passion and talent and we look forward to sharing the children's work with you. We hope to throw in a little bit of culinary genius this half-term too, which you will get to share with the children. Post half-term activities will be communicated in due course!

Home Learning

We hope that your child returned with the first Home Learning of this term, on Friday. It will follow a similar format to last term's Home Learning, focusing on weekly spellings and times tables practice, whilst keeping you up to date with goings-on in Emerald Class. Thank you for your continued support in promoting your child's learning at home.