

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins Class

Autumn 2016



Our Themes:

Autumn Term 1 – The Stories People Tell

Autumn Term 2 – Let's Celebrate

Our Key Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation
Fairness Honesty Respect



Welcome back Merlins! I hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday and are all rested and raring to go with our exciting new school year. We have a very exciting term ahead of us this term and lots of fun things planned. Below, you will find all of the information that you need about the new topics which we will be covering during the Autumn term.

English

During this term, we will be linking our English with our IPC topics and we will be using stories such as Robin Hood and many Aesop's Fables as a stimulus for writing. We will also be working on our handwriting as a school and we are looking forward to the warm up exercises, which take place before each lesson. We will also be concentrating on spelling, grammar and punctuation in weekly lessons. In the second term, we will complete lots of celebration activities, for example writing invitations and celebration cards. Please look out for each week's spelling rules in your homework and practice these at home.

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, we will be looking at number and place value to begin with, then we will move onto looking at addition and subtraction, measurements, properties of shape and statistics. We will strive to link our mathematics lessons to our IPC topics wherever possible, as we do in all of our lessons and will ensure that they are interesting, exciting and challenging for all children in the class.

Science

In Science this term, we are studying things which are alive. We will be looking at life cycles, and food chains in term one. In term two we will be concentrating on light and dark. We will look at various light sources, how materials can reflect light and how shadows are made.

R.E

In R.E this term, the children will be learning about who they care for and how they show this. We will look at different examples of caring in different religions. In term two we will be learning about celebrations and how we celebrate and reflect on our beliefs and values.

Computing

In the first term, we will be Treasure Hunters and will use our programming skills to find treasure using programmable toys! In the second term, we will be TV chefs and will be filming a recipe –we will use our thinking skills and use different software such as Microsoft Word and Movie Maker.

PSHE

Our Jigsaw topic this term is 'Being Me in My World'. We will be celebrating the differences between us all and we will learn how to respect each other despite these differences. We will understand that the world is made up of many different people and it is this which makes life so exciting.

P.E

In P.E. the children will be taking part in multi-skills which will include striking, throwing and kicking. In term two they will be concentrating on multi-skills games, such as bench ball and other exciting team games. We are also looking forward to swimming again with Mr Toothill.

International Primary Curriculum

We learn these subjects through our theme. For our themes we have an entry day to enthuse the children and an exit day to celebrate all that we have learned.

Term 1	Term 2
Our theme is The Stories People Tell	Our theme is Let's Celebrate.
During our Entry day we will explore different stories we listen to in the present day. We will enjoy dressing up as different story characters.	Our Entry day will be one big celebration – the children will choose what they would like to celebrate and how they will celebrate.
During our Exit day we will perform a drama piece based on one of the tales we have explored throughout the term. Look out for your invitation to come and be an audience!	Our Exit day will be an even bigger celebration that involves the whole school. The children will lead the way on this and suggest ideas of how we can do this.

Term 1	Term 2
<p>As Historians we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about myths and legends from different times in the past. • how to create our own legend about someone we know. • about the Gods that people used to worship in the past. 	<p>As Historians we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how people in our families celebrated in the recent past. • how particular past events are still celebrated.
<p>As Artists we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how people in the past have represented stories and characters. • how we can use art to tell a creation story. • how to create our own Greek pots. • how to design and make our own dream catcher. 	<p>As Artists we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how decorations were used in the past. • how the work of artists is used in celebrations. • how to make images and artefacts that could be used in celebrations.
<p>In Geography we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about stories from different countries and cultures. • how we can remember an important journey. • how we can make our own maps. 	<p>In society we will be finding out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how different people celebrate different events. • how different groups of people have different rules.
<p>In society we will be finding out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about fairytales and the lessons that they teach us. • how we can make a modern version of a fairytale. • about who we think of as 'heroes' today. 	<p>As Designers we will be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to plan for a celebration. • how to design and make a product for a celebration.
<p>In our International learning we will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning about legendary and mythological characters from our different home countries. 	<p>In our International learning we will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking at the different celebrations around the world.

Important Information

Our weekly homework will be set on Thursday and returned on a Monday.

Our P.E day is: **Friday** and Swimming will be on a **Tuesday**.

Phonics challenges will be tested on a weekly basis. Please practice these with your child as often as you can, alongside listening to them read every night.

The children will have opportunities to read to an adult in school and can change their reading books twice a week. We will change the books on a Monday and a Thursday and will give the children two books at a time. If you would like to change them more regularly we invite you to come into the classroom after school and pick out some new books with your child. Please speak to me if this is something you wish to do. It is very important for the children to be reading at home in order to help them progress through the various different stages and improve their vocabulary, which in turn helps them in their writing. Please understand that the children's reading stage will be changed when they have demonstrated over a period of time that they have improved their fluency and comprehension on that stage. There are a number of varied books for each reading stage and it is important that the children read a breadth of different genres. Before making the decision to move the children up a level, I always consult their National Curriculum first.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible in Key Stage One, including developing their responsibility for bringing their P.E. kits and homework on the correct day. We ask for your support with this.

We are always looking for parents willing to come into school to listen to the children read. If you can help with this it would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to come and see me if you think you can help. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to approach me. I look forward to working in the Merlins class this year and I am sure we will have a fantastic year together.

Kind Regards,

Miss Walford