

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Merlins

Autumn 2014



Our Themes:

Autumn Term 1 – People of the Past

Autumn Term 2 – Let's Celebrate

Our Key Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation
Fairness Honesty Respect



Welcome back Merlins! I hope you all had a wonderful Summer Break and are ready for an exciting term ahead I have enjoyed reading all the postcards we received and they are proudly displayed in the classroom. We are all very excited with our first term back and the topics we have planned. Here is what you need to know about the curriculum this term, along with specific information for the Merlins class. If you have any questions about what is happening in the future term, please let me know.

Literacy

During this term we will be linking our literacy with our IPC topics and will be writing about Christopher Columbus and using Pocahontas as our visual literacy. We will also be working on our handwriting as a school and we are looking forward to all the warm up exercises. We will also be concentration on spelling, grammar and punctuation in weekly lessons. In the second term we will complete lots of celebration activities!

Numeracy

During these terms we will be looking at numbers and their place value. We will then use this knowledge to read, write and interpret mathematical statements. We will also look at shapes and different measurements such as length, height and weight. We then use this knowledge to solve practical problems.

Science

In Science this term we are studying things that are alive – how do we know they are alive and what do they need to stay alive? In the second term we will be investigating: *what if there was no light, would there be life on our planet?* We will learn how light helps plants to grow, how it warms the planet, and how it allows us to see all the wonders around us.

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! In the second term we will be TV chefs and will be filming a recipe – this will mean we use our computational thinking and use different software such as Word and Movie Maker.

PSHE

This term we are learning to contribute to shaping a welcoming and safe community for all. We will consider problem solving and ways we can calm ourselves. In term two we will be developing our skills of friendship and working well together in groups.

P.E

In P.E the children will be learning multi skills and then using these skills to participate in multi games.

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 People of the Past	Our theme is Let's Celebrate
The children will be discovering why people are famous and what they contributed to our lives.	Our entry day will be one big celebration – the children will choose what they want to celebrate and how they will.
Our exit day will be a pop up Madam Tussards – the children will be creating different people from the past and props associated with them. These will then be displayed in the afternoon for parents to see.	Our exit day will be an even bigger celebration that involves the whole school. The children will lead the way on this.

Term 1	Term 2
As Historians we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how famous explorers compare in history • about important inventors and their inventions • what life was like at different times in the past 	As Historians we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how people in our families celebrated in the recent past • how particular past events are still celebrated
As Artists we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to compare an explorer from the past with a modern-day explorer • to create a portrait of a friend • about the work of a famous artist • to paint in the style of a famous artist 	As Artists we will be learning: <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
In society we will be finding out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to stay safe in busy places 	In society we will be finding out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how different people celebrate different events • how different groups of people have different rules
As Musicians we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to explore sounds from our bodies and following a beat. 	As Musicians we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about sounds in our stories and toys.
As Designers we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to use different materials to create our model for Madam Tussards 	As Designers we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to plan for a celebration • how to design and make a product for a celebration
In our International learning we will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to explore the ideas of 'fairness' • why some people in the past wanted to make a change 	In our International learning we will be learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is the same and what is different between the celebrations in the home countries of the different children in our class

Important Information

Our weekly homework will be set on Wednesday and returned on Monday.

Our P.E days are: **Wednesday and Friday**

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

The children will have the opportunity to read to an adult everyday in school and change their reading book. It is also every important they are reading at home 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 reading level 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, homework and spelling books on the correct day, and reminding them to change their reading books when they need to. 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 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 with you, as well as your child.

Kind Regards

Mrs Watson