



## Nightingale Class Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2017

**Teacher: Miss Connelly**

**Teaching assistant: Mrs Cass**

Welcome back to the Autumn term at school. I am very much looking forward to another exciting year in Nightingale class. These are a few key points you need to know:

- We maintain good communication with parents through Home-School books, the newsletter and using the school noticeboard. Please try to ensure that forms are read and returned promptly so that we can continue to offer a wide range of experiences to the children.
- PE lessons will take place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons but children will need to have their PE kit in school every day. Children need white t-shirts and blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms.
- Spellings will be given out on Tuesdays, to be tested on the following Tuesday with Mrs Hall. KS2 children are expected to take responsibility for looking after their spelling list. Copies will be given out at the start of the term and spare copies are always available.
- My door is always open if you have any concerns or need to speak to me about anything. A meeting can be arranged if more time is needed.

### English

Children will begin the term reading and writing about our class text *The Wizard of Oz*. Children will develop their understanding and skills in narrative writing, as well as using more complex grammar and punctuation in sentences.

Children will have spellings to learn for a test every Tuesday. This will be with Mrs Hall. Words from the National Curriculum Year 3 and Year 4 statutory spelling lists will be given out at the start of the term which children are expected to take responsibility for. Spellings will be marked after the lesson and the results will be returned the following day. Different ways to learn the spellings will also be given out to make the learning of spellings at home more enjoyable.

In KS2, children are still expected to read at home with an adult as well as independently as much as possible. Children will read with an adult at school at least once a week. Children will continue to work their way through the coloured book band stickers with the aim of moving on to free reader.

### Maths

Children will become increasingly confident with their understanding of number and place value this term. A variety of topics will be covered, including strategies for mental calculations, as well as written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children will be able to tell the time with increasing accuracy, as well as extend their understanding of shape, space and data handling. Where possible, children will use ICT alongside maths, using various online resources and iPad apps to support their learning. Investigatory lessons will help broaden the children's mathematical understanding and practical and visual resources will be used as well.

All children have their own Mathletics account and can work their way to earning a bronze, silver or gold certificate which will be presented in assembly. Usernames and passwords can be found in home-school books.

All children have maths targets to practise in their Maths Passport. If you are keen to support your child's maths learning, going over these skills little and often to increase confidence and speed is highly recommended. If you would like any support with these skills or how to best help your child please do not hesitate to ask. We have a range of maths resources at school to support the understanding of number and place value. If you would like to speak to me about how these can be used at home my door is always open.

**R.E.**

Nightingales will be learning about Christianity with a focus on the Creation and Fall. The key question for enquiry is: what can Christians learn from the Creation Story?

By the end of the unit, pupils will be able to place the concepts of God and Creation on a timeline of the Bible and make clear links between Genesis 1 and what Christians believe about God and the Creation.

**Topic**

KS2 will start with the topic of North America. This exciting topic will begin with a geographical understanding of the continents in the world, the countries within North America and the states in the USA. Children will move on to learn about Native Americans and their culture and traditions, including religion, shelter and clothing. Nightingales will then learn about Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World and the impact this had on the people already inhabiting the land. Towards the end of the topic, children will learn about modern day America, including famous cities and landmarks, the currency and a short history of American presidents.

**Science**

The science topic will be Electricity. Children will be able to identify common appliances that run on electricity and construct a simple electrical circuit, including identifying and naming the basic parts. Children will be able to identify whether a lamp will light in an electrical circuit and the role of a switch, and finally be able to recognise some common conductors and insulators.

**P.E./Games**

Children will be developing skills in games this term. Mr Dawley will take Nightingales for PE on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at all times. PE will take place outside whenever possible, so please ensure your child has jogging bottoms, a jumper, trainers and spare socks. KS2 will also be swimming at Stoner swimming pool at some point this year. More information about times to follow.

**PSHE**

Topics for this term will include Being Me in My World and Celebrating Difference.

**French**

Topics will include basic greetings and questions, numbers, the alphabet, daily routine and parts of the body. They will also be singing songs and playing language games to help reinforce learning and for the Year 4s, revise previously learned language. The four language skills will be used - speaking, listening, reading and writing, along with some basic grammar awareness.

**Homework/Reading at home**

Children will be given a topic-based homework that allows greater flexibility and the opportunity for collaboration at home. Children will be expected to present two pieces of homework every short term but are very welcome to complete more. In addition to set homework children are expected to read at least three times a week at home which should be recorded in the home-school book.

Children should also be regularly practising their mental maths skills using the passport system which should be signed off by an adult when they are confident with each skill. Please encourage your child to ask to be tested when you are confident they are ready.

A general guideline for homework is to complete around fifteen minutes per night, in the form of reading with an adult, practising set spelling words, as well as times tables, maths passport targets and telling the time.

**Best wishes**

Miss L Connelly