



Nightingale Class Curriculum Letter – Spring Term 2018

Teacher: Miss Connelly

Teaching assistant: Mrs Cass

Welcome to the start of Spring term 2018. We hope you had an enjoyable holiday. These are a few key points that you need to know:

- We try hard to maintain good communication with parents through Home-School books, e-mail contact and the newsletter.
- PE lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoons and children need to have their PE kit in school every day. They need white t-shirts and blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms. PE kits need to be in named zipped up or drawstring bags to avoid items getting lost in the cloakroom. Children are expected to keep their trainers in plastic bags inside their PE kits.
- My door is always open if you need to speak to me about anything. Mornings are usually busy preparing for the day but a meeting can be arranged after school if matters need to be discussed further.

English

Nightingales will start the term linking English writing to our new topic of 'Inventions'. The children will be studying explanation texts and will work on objectives needed to write their own explanation text based on an iRobot dog, using the animation *Mr Hublot* as inspiration. This short film is available to watch online for free and children are welcome to watch and enjoy it prior to starting the term. Reading will continue to be a big focus this term through class books and individual reading. Children are expected to be responsible for changing their own books in KS2. Once children move onto the Free Reader level, children should be encouraged to persevere and enjoy reading a long text. Spellings will be given out at the start of the term. Spelling patterns will be taught weekly and will be tested by Mrs Hall on Tuesdays. Please ask if you need a spare copy of the words as they are always available. Although there are a set number of words that will be tested, if your child is confident with the spelling pattern and rule then extending them further at home with other words that follow the same pattern will extend their vocabulary further.

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.

All children have maths targets to practise in their Maths Passport. Going over these skills little and often to increase confidence and speed is recommended.

R.E.

In RE we will be learning about Hinduism. The children will learn an overview of Hinduism, focussing on its origins, core beliefs, festivals and special places. Children will explore the holy book and identify key Hindu symbols and their meanings.

Topic

KS2's topic for Term 3 and 4 will be Inventions That Changed the World, which is a Design and Technology and History based topic. Children will begin by learning about the history of famous inventions, and how certain inventions changed people's lives for the better. The children will learn about the importance of drawing a clear design and will use this to make a moving vehicle, continually improving the design with evaluations and linking this to specific criteria.

Science

The topic in Science this term will be Forces and Magnetism. Children will compare how things move on different surfaces, noticing how some forces need contact between two objects but magnetic forces can act at a distance. They will observe how magnets attract or repel each other and certain materials. Scientific skills such as making predictions and drawing conclusions based on scientific evidence will be practised, as well as identifying differences and similarities and reporting findings accurately.

P.E./Games

Children will be developing skills in games this term. Mr Dawley from GoActive will be taking the children for Games every Tuesday. These sessions will take place outside so please ensure that your child has suitable kit in school this day, including trainers.

We are aware that space in the mobile cloakroom is limited. Ensuring that children have a suitable drawstring bag to hold their PE kit which is clearly named will avoid items getting lost.

PSHE

Topics for this term will include *Dreams and Goals* and *Healthy Me*.

French

Topics will include places in town, shops, transport, countries and mardi-gras. Children will also be singing songs and playing language games to help reinforce learning and revise previously learned language. The four language skills will be used: speaking, listening, reading and writing, along with basic grammar awareness.

Homework/Reading at home

Ideas for homework will be provided at the beginning of term and are designed for children to explore in depth and to follow their own areas of interest. If children would like to invent their own homework they are welcome to. At least two pieces of homework are expected before half term, and two after half term, which children should bring into school to share.

Children are expected to read as often as possible at home independently and with an adult, which should be recorded in their home-school book. Children should also be regularly practising their mental maths skills using the passport system that can be signed off by an adult when they are confident with each skill. Children also have the opportunity to use the online Mathletics programme and to earn certificates for achievements. Usernames and passwords can be found in the front cover of Home School books. Times tables will continue to be tested on Fridays. The children work through the levels of times table tests, aiming to achieve 60/60 before moving onto the next level.

Best wishes

Miss Connelly