



Nightingale Class Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term 2019

Teacher: Miss Connelly

Teaching assistant: Mrs Cass

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

- PE lessons will take place every week and 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 Mondays, to be tested on the following Monday with Mrs Burton. 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

Our first class novel of the year will be *Our Castle by the Sea* by Lucy Strange, set at the outbreak of World War II. The teaching of writing will be based around this book. Children will gain confidence writing longer and more complex sentences, applying new Year 3 and 4 grammar rules. Children will be reading a variety of historical texts to learn more about life during the war, including non-fiction, poetry and diary entries, and will have lots of opportunity for creative and structured writing.

Children will have spellings to learn for a test every Monday. This will be with Mrs Burton. 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.

In KS2, children are 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 progress through the coloured book band stickers with the aim of moving on to free reader. Questions and ways of checking your child's comprehension of their reading book will be provided as a bookmark inside their home-school book. It is important that as children move onto free reader, they are encouraged to read and persevere with longer books to build stamina and learn from more complex plotlines and character development.

Maths

Children will become increasingly confident with their understanding of number and place value this term. In Year 3, children will begin working with numbers up to 1000, including recognising the value of each digit and counting in a variety of intervals. Year 4 children will continue to build on their understanding of numbers up to and beyond 1000. Children will work on being fluent in number, using reasoning to explain and justify their thinking and apply their understanding in problem solving contexts.

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 a username and password for TT Rockstars as well, where they can practise times table fluency and be set challenges.

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 offer suggestions about what the story of Adam and Eve might show about human nature and how to act. Children will consider how and why Christians might pray to God, say sorry, forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Topic

KS2 will start the year with a history topic on World War II. We will be studying the historic events that led to the outbreak of the Second World War, placing the events on a timeline and over the course of the topic, build an understanding of events and chronology of the war from a child's perspective, including what it was like to be evacuated and rationing.

In music, we will be focus our learning on a song called Let Your Spirit Fly. Lots of musical games, singing and playing musical instruments will help children understand the pulse, rhythm and pitch of the song.

In art lessons, children will develop their skills in sketching, painting and using a variety of other media, as well as studying the work of L. S. Lowri.

Science

Nightingales will begin the term learning about electricity, including uses and how to wire a simple circuit. After half term, children will move on to light, including darkness, reflection, dangers and shadows.

P.E./Games

Children will be developing their skills in team games this term. PE will take place outside whenever possible, so please ensure your child has jogging bottoms, a jumper, trainers and spare socks.

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. 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

