



STJB Holly Class

Extreme Earth and Plundering Planets

Spring 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Another year starts and another exciting topic lays ahead. Key Stage 2 are studying 'Extreme Earth and Plundering Planets'. The children have started to ask questions about volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and extreme weather conditions to research this half term and then we will move on to look at our Earth in space for the second half of term.

In English, we will be looking at newspaper recounts, instructional texts, book reviews and non-chronological writing. There will be a chance to join us for a Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling workshop in March (details to follow). You will then be invited to join the children throughout the school as they apply these skills to their writing.

Later this term, the children in Year 5 of Holly and Oak class will complete a long term homework project on an aspect of Space — more details to follow.

In Maths, we will continue to learn about multiplication and division and how to apply these in a variety of real life contexts. We will then move on to learning about fractions and decimals and measurement of area and volume. The Maths Planet challenges will continue to be a major part of supporting the children's mental strategies and we will be applying these to more formal arithmetic and problem solving activities.

Our Science will tie in with our topic work as we look at rocks and soils, light and Earth in space. They will be consolidating how to plan and carry out investigations, although there are no plans for trips into space—yet!. Mrs Pollard will be teaching science on Fridays.

A major part of our learning this term will be based around a 'Design it' project, looking at ideas old and new that could better support the survival of people caught up in an area devastated by a natural disaster.

In Computing, the children will be continuing to develop their understanding of the Microsoft programs, including Word, Publisher and Excel, with opportunities for learning programming using Kodu and Scratch.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Holly class will be taking part in science activities related to Gardening and 'Film it' in the second half. (Please see additional letter sent home on Thursday 3rd January)

During PE, the children will be developing skills in a variety of invasion and net and wall games. Holly class will also extend their country and maypole dancing talents in preparation for the Revels in May.

The children should have their full P.E. kit in at all times, but always on Tuesdays and Wednesdays .

In R.E. along with the rest of KS2, we will be looking at Islam, focussing on the Five Pillars of Islam, Prayer, the Qur'an Muhammed and Ramadan. The second half of term, and building up to Easter, the children will be looking at the question, 'What did Jesus do to save humans?'

French, taught by Mrs Stoner, will continue on a Wednesday afternoon.

In Art, the children will use mixed media and will learn how to block print to produce four images using Hokusai's 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' as a starting point.

The children will continue to work in Talk Partners to improve their independent and collaborative skills.

This is just an outline of the work Holly Class will be exploring this term.

Homework: Spelling—Children will have new spellings every week. They have a task for each week Monday to Friday in their homework book. This is also on the school website. Please check and sign your child's spelling work each evening.

Reading— the children are expected to read (with an adult wherever possible) 5 times a week. Please sign and make comments in their yellow reading record book to acknowledge that this has been completed.

Maths Planets challenge—The children will be expected to learn their Planet Challenge ready for a weekly test. I have continued to see a great improvement with many children in their mental maths ability. This is primarily due to the hard work they are putting into learning their tables at home. Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions or queries about anything that would further help your child, then please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school so we can talk together. In addition, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any expertise in our topic or contacts in any of the areas above that you think would help engage the children in their learning. Thank you Mr. John Cumming