

Friday 9th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a restful break and feel refreshed and ready for the new term ahead. We have a lot of exciting learning to cover in the Spring Term!

Spring Term Learning

In **English**, we will be reading 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies and will focus on writing in the simple present tense, using punctuation such as question marks and commas for lists in preparation for writing our own non-chronological report. We will then move on to reading an alternative version of the traditional tale, 'Rapunzel', written by Bethan Woolvin. In this narrative unit, we will be working on using expanded noun phrases, extending sentences with different conjunctions and using the past tense consistently, in preparation for writing our own version of the story. In the second half of the term, we will be reading the wonderful book, 'Julian is a Mermaid' by Jessica Love. In this narrative unit, we will once again focus on writing in the past tense and develop our understanding of the different characters in the story by using our inference skills. We will finish the term with a poetry unit, focusing on free verse and simile.

We will continue to have daily **spelling** sessions following the Herts Essentials scheme. Weekly spellings, with a focus on our spelling pattern of the week, will be sent home as part of the children's home learning.

In **maths**, we will begin the term by learning about money, working on making different amounts using different combinations of coins and finding change. We will be learning about time, particularly understanding o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to the hour. We will then focus on statistics and data, reading tallies, grouping data and understanding certain graphs. Later in the term, we will learn more formal methods of addition and subtraction and apply this to some problem solving. We will also be revisiting doubling and halving and considering multiplication and division word problems.

In **science** this term, our topic is Plants. We will be learning about how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants, whilst investigating what a healthy plant needs to grow. We will be growing our own plants and observing the process. As part of our science learning, we will be going on a trip to Batchwood Woods to identify different plants and living things.

In **history** this term, we will be investigating toys from the past. We will start our topic by learning about chronology, placing key events in our history on to a timeline. We will then focus on the 1960s and look at key events, toys and objects from that decade. We will explore and compare toys from the 1960s and present day, thinking about how we can use smart toys safely. We are looking forward to an exciting trip to St Albans Museum to take part in a 'Tremendous Toys' workshop, handling different toys from the past.

In **geography**, we will be considering the enquiry question 'Why does it matter where my food comes from?' We will explore a number of key geographical concepts such as location and distribution as well as establishing a clear grasp of fundamental geographical processes including economic activity and trade. This unit will help us to understand 'why' it's important to know where our food comes from.

RE lessons this first half term are focused on Islam. We will be learning about the meaning of commitment and how this is demonstrated through Muslim prayer. The children will discuss the meaning and practice of Salat and whether praying at regular intervals affects a Muslim in his/her everyday life. In the second half of the term, we will study Easter and the resurrection story. We will explore the different Christian teachings so that children can attempt to answer the question, 'How important is it to Christians that Jesus came back to life after his crucifixion?'

The children will continue to be taught music by Mr Mitchell, our specialist teacher, and they will be taught art by Mrs Jeffries.

The children's **PE** sessions will be taught on **Monday** by Mrs Jeffries and on **Friday** by Mrs Watkins. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on these days and will remain in it all day so will not need uniform to change into.

In **PSHE**, we will be focusing on the units of work, 'Dreams and Goals' followed by 'Healthy Me'. Year 2 will be exploring goal setting, perseverance and resilience, how to work well in a group, how to keep our bodies healthy, as well as looking at food groups and how these affect our bodies.

In **computing** this term, the children will be looking at algorithms. The children will learn that algorithms are sets of clear instructions given in a specific order. In order to explore this, the children will programme beebots to follow a simple set of instructions. We will then look at pictograms, applying our maths learning on statistics to present information in a digital format.

Home Learning

Home learning is an important part of school, as it helps children to continue learning and make progress. Activities will include an English and a maths task to recap on previous learning and an English and maths task focused on that week's key learning. In addition, five spellings will be given that should be practised and written out five times. These will be set on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday in order for them to be marked.

Please continue to read with your child every day and sign their reading records. To help with your child's learning, please read every night with them for at least 10 minutes and sign their Reading Record. To help with their understanding of what they have read, ask them questions about the book. For example, you could ask about the characters, what has happened in the story, or what might happen next. The children are required to bring in their reading book and reading record to the class every day. Their books will be changed once a week. At times these books may seem 'easy' for your child. Please be assured that it is important the children can read their books accurately with very few mistakes in decoding in order to make progress in fluency and comprehension (deeper understanding of the story). In order to give each child more than one opportunity to earn a reading token for our book vending machine, the Give Me Ten numbers will reset this term.

Similarly, Maths Magicians will restart again this term, allowing the children to perfect the essential skills your child needs in Year 2. Please continue to spend 10 minutes a day practising your child's current skill so they can move through the stages and aim to win a fun games afternoon with Miss Abbott!

The children will have a library slot on a **Friday** afternoon. Please bring library books in on a Friday so that they can be changed.

We are going to have an exciting spring term with lots of fun and interesting learning! Please check for any key dates on the school's website.

Best wishes,
Mrs Watkins