



# Mercenfeld Primary School



## Autumn 1 Newsletter



We were all deeply saddened to hear the news that Queen Elizabeth II sadly passed away on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. We had a special assembly to celebrate the Queen's life and the children were tremendously respectful. We have had opportunities to talk about the Queen and the new accession to the throne of King Charles III in classes. The news has, for some children, brought up poignant memories of loved ones they have lost and all staff have supported these children wonderfully, giving them time, space and support.

We recently received a reply from Buckingham Palace thanking us for letters that some of children had sent the Queen to congratulate her on her Platinum Jubilee. The letter now has pride of place in our reception area, so please do come and have a look.

One of our Year 5 children, Lyla, has written a beautiful, emotive poem about Queen Elizabeth which she read at church. We share it with you in this newsletter.

Quite an information packed newsletter this half term!

We have had a wonderful start to the new academic year, even though it has been tinged with sadness with the news regarding The Queen. The children are incredibly settled and have quickly got into new routines. As I walk around school I am so impressed by all the children's positive attitudes to learning and exemplary behaviour. They are such a credit to you and the school.

As you know there is a huge focus on attendance and punctuality that is coming from the Department for Education. There is a little more on that in this newsletter and you will have received a letter from Dean Pomeroy, Director of school, about this via email. We really appreciate your support with this and ask for your understanding when we ask for evidence.

We are in the process of amending and improving our website for it to be easier to use. Please do let us know any feedback on it. We have recently uploaded our new updated Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Attendance Policy.

We have been working on our vision for the school, which we felt needed updating and we will be sharing this with you in the next newsletter.

It is lovely to be able to greet you all in the morning and I am gradually getting to know you! Please do come over and chat and feedback to me anything that you feel is important for me to know. As always please do pop into the office to make an appointment to see me if you wish to discuss any issues.

Mrs Randle

Interim Head

### **Mercenfeld Local Advisory Board (LAB)**

As part of a Multi- Academy Trust (MAT) we are no longer required to have a governing body and have a 'LAB' instead. Whilst this still rightly provides a level of scrutiny and holds the school to account, it also means there is far less commitment or training required by LAB members.

We have now recruited to the posts and are thrilled to have two parents who will bring an enormous skill set to the group. More information to follow in the next newsletter.



### **Attendance and Punctuality**

We now have quite strict policies we have to follow to ensure that children do come to school on time and are there for the start of lessons. Therefore, tight protocols, which we need to comply with in regard to absence, have been introduced. We will not authorise any holiday in school time and any absence for holidays may result in us having to refer the absence onto Leicestershire County Council for a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please be advised that the school does not get any of the money from the fines that are collected.

We politely request that you do not make any medical appointments within school time.

Please see additional information from the Trust regarding school attendance information below.

Whilst we know that it can be very frustrating when we ask for evidence regarding your child's absence, we are sure you understand the reasons are well meant and the policies in place are for us to ensure that all our children are safe and educated.

#### **Attendance Matters**



Please may we request that children do not wear loom bands and friendship bracelets to school.

Thank you.

### **Parents Evenings**

We are really excited to have Parents Evenings finally back in school!

They will take place on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

We are also excited to be trialling an online booking system through Arbor!

What could possibly go wrong?!

Booking is now open!

If you log onto your Arbor it will say 'Guardian Consultation is now open' which you can then click on to book.

## School Dinners

As you know we now have an external provider, Caterlink who provide and cook our meals.

We have had some initial teething problems, as is the case with any new system and provider, but we are working in close partnership with Caterlink's Regional Manager, Sue, who is in constant dialogue with Mrs Randle.

We are sad to say goodbye to our long term School Cook, Martine Smith, who has given many years of service to the school. We wish her well but are pleased that she may pop in now and again to add extra capacity to the kitchen.

Congratulations to Donna Moffatt who is now our new Cook.



## **Spotlight on.....**

### Mrs Randle



Mrs Randle has worked in both inner city Leicester schools for the majority of her career and taught most primary age ranges. She was a consultant for EYFS/KS1 for Leicester City Council for 5 years where she supported teachers in schools and delivered training and networks right across the city.

Mrs Randle moved to be a Deputy Head at Church Hill Infants schools where she worked for 5 years. She then became a Lead Practitioner working for BEP, again supporting teachers, delivering training and overseeing networks for the 16 schools in the Trust. During this time she did a short spell as Joint Acting Head at another BEP school.

Having taught or been involved with education for over 30 years Mrs Randle has worked with Mercefeld Primary since they joined the Trust several years ago.

A local Leicestershire girl, Mrs Randle was brought up in Burbage and now lives in Kirby Muxloe. She is married to a retired firefighter Russ, and has two grown up daughters - Katie and Millie.

## **Trust Questionnaire**

The Trust have sent out a trust wide parent survey again this term.

Huge apologies to those that did not get this in the first instance. Initially the Trust were sending this out from the centre, bypassing the school, but unfortunately the Arbor system could not cope with the huge amount of emails it needed to send

Please do complete the survey. It is tremendously important to the school, and the Trust to get your feedback. Your views really are important and the form should not take longer than a few minutes to complete.

The link is here to the survey but if you still haven't had the email, please do contact our office

<https://forms.office.com/r/WpV4zw7m0G>

The trust also require us to send out a questionnaire to staff and our children too which enable us to get a fuller picture of success and the areas we need to improve.

Thank you.



## **Trips and Residential**

We are currently finalising the timetable for trip and any residential that will take place over the years and across the year groups.

One of the most thrilling parts of primary school life is the chance to go on a residential. We will again be undertaking our Year 6 residential, and we are also hoping to organise a residential for Year 2 and a sleep over at school for Year 4.

All details will be forthcoming as we negotiate prices and confirm venues and dates.

We do try to keep the cost at an absolute minimum and are very aware that if you have several children at school the cost can be prohibitive.

Any trip always has an educational value, and we are all passionate about providing chances for the children to have experiences outside the school ground as these are often the most memorable and have the biggest impact on learning. However, with increased demands on an ever-shrinking budget we will have to make hard decisions as to if trips can take place if we are not able to cover the cost.

Please be assured that we would only do this with a heavy heart and after much discussion.





Dear Parents / Carers,

On behalf of the PTA, welcome back to another new term and welcome to those parents who have joined us this year.

Following the AGM towards the end of last term, I am honoured to take over the role as Chairperson and continue the excellent work that my predecessors started.

As a parent/carer of a child enrolled in the school, you are automatically a member of our PTA and hopefully this letter will explain a little bit about us and about the work we do.

The PTA has a strong committee who hold regular meetings every couple of months in order to further our aim; which is to benefit each and every child enrolled in the school by holding regular well-supported events in order to raise funds to enable us to support the school in providing additional resources and “fun” opportunities for the children.

Our committee is bound by our Constitution and both trustees (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and committee members are elected for a year's term in office. Elections take place at our AGM which will likely be held early in the Summer Term 2023. We do occasionally have spaces for co-opted members to be included within the committee and these will be announced as/when they arise.

My fellow committee and I are delighted that as things currently stand, we can look forward towards getting back into the swing of things and planning a variety of events for the children to enjoy throughout the year. The committee have lots of exciting ideas which we look forward to announcing very soon.

I know from speaking with other parents that lots of people would like to support the PTA a little more than just attending events but struggle with time to commit to being part of the committee.

I am currently looking to create a Volunteer Register (which will be subject to data privacy) so that if we plan to hold a larger scale event, we can contact people on the register and ask if they are free to help us out at that event in some way. There is no commitment required to attend meetings and you can request to be removed from the register at any time if your circumstances change. We realise that many parents do work so if there are any grandparents who would be willing and able to volunteer; they would be most welcome.

Where possible, we would also like to support those of you in businesses which can assist us in running our events, anything from face painting/glitter tattoos to DJ/disco entertainment hire to marquee hire and catering. If you have a particular service or product which may help us with an event (e.g. disco / movie night / school fete) we would love to hear from you too.

If you would be happy to be included as a volunteer or might be able to help us with a product or service for our events, please complete and return the form overleaf to the school or via email to:  
[ptfa.chair@mercenfeld.bepschools.org](mailto:ptfa.chair@mercenfeld.bepschools.org)

I look forward to being able to announce the details of our first events schedule soon and look forward to meeting many of you at some of our events throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

Carol Lindsay  
PTA Chairperson



## Attendance Guidance

Good attendance is vital to ensure that children learn and reach their full potential

Children should be in school and ready to learn.

We value the support of parents in making sure that children are in school and arrive and leave on time.

The Head Teacher of a school is no longer allowed to authorise holidays of any kind except in exceptional circumstances.

We welcome your children into our schools and do not advise elective home education (EHE) although we will always support families in their decisions.

Registers are taken twice daily; morning and afternoon.

The start of the school day is **8.50 am** (gates open at 8.40 am and shut at 8.50 am)

The start of the afternoon session 1 pm

Any pupil arriving late will be marked late 'L'

However, children arriving more than 30 minutes late will receive a 'U' code this is an unauthorised absent mark

The attendance target for our school is 97%



### Year 4 Harvest Festival Celebration

**St Michael and All Angels Markfield**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 10 am**

This year, Year 4 will be undertaking the harvest celebration at the Church.

We warmly invite parents of Year 4 children to attend.

Other year groups will be taking charge of other events as the year progresses so please watch this space!



### Uniform and PE kit

Thank you to you all for ensuring that the children are wearing the correct school uniform and PE kit.

We do recognise that it does not state on our website what colour trainers for PE. We have changed it to asking for plain, inexpensive black trainers but fully appreciated if you haven't bought his colour for the start of term. We apologise and totally understand this has happened.

Please can we ask that you do name label all items of clothing, especially jumpers, cardigans, and coats. We have a tremendous amount of lost property which we are not able to reunite with their owners and with the cost of living being as it is, we know that none of us can afford to keep buying new uniform items.



### **E-safety and Keeping Children Safe On-line - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 3.30pm**

Does your child use You- Tube?

Do they access Snapchat and Instagram?

Do they talk to others whilst gaming?

Have they a mobile phone that they use to text and Whatsapp others?

Our children today are very 'tech -savvy' but there are more and more instances where children are accessing inappropriate content or where their safety is compromised. We work tirelessly with our children around e-safety and ways to keep themselves safe in this digital world.

However, often parents and carers may not be aware where the dangers lie and what to do to mitigate them at home. Mis Ma, Our Computing Lead will be running an e-safety session for parents and carers on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 3.30pm in the hall**, where she will be sharing things for you to be aware of and some top tips for keeping your child safe on line. Keep the date free!



### **Queen Elizabeth the Second**

By Lyla

Elizabeth a glorious name.

For a glorious queen with a glorious reign.

You helped our country in many ways,

And we will forever give you our praise

Seventy years is a very long time,

The crown that you wore will always shine.

Fifteen Prime Ministers have stood by your side,

You always greeted them with empathy and pride.

Our country will miss you but now we have a king,

As one era closes, another will begin.

You were a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother,

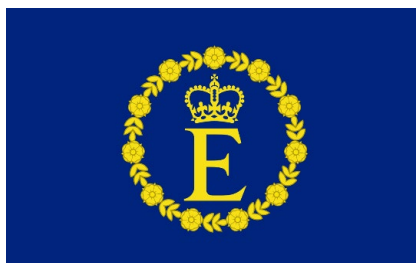
Queen Elizabeth you were like no other.

You showed your support to all the armed forces,

And was super kind to all the corgis and horses.

The Queen of our country had a very big heart

You have done such good for the nation, from the very start





## Safeguarding

Here at Mercenfeld we take safeguarding and child protection seriously

Please do access our newly updates Safeguarding and Child Protection policy via our website.

[https://www.mercenfeld.bepschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2022/09/Mercenfeld-Primary-BEP-Child-Protection-Policy-2022\\_23.pdf](https://www.mercenfeld.bepschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2022/09/Mercenfeld-Primary-BEP-Child-Protection-Policy-2022_23.pdf)

**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

## Bullying

We take a very proactive approach to ensuring our children feel safe and secure at school and are confident to be able to talk to any adult in school if they feel unsafe.

We talk to the children regularly about bullying.

Bullying is when someone purposely hurts, upsets, threatens or frighten someone repeatedly. We use the acronym **STOP**.

Several Times On Purpose

We also talk to the children that **STOP** also stands for

Start Telling Other People

We talk to children about trusted adults they can share and get support from.

We have regular assemblies and sessions in class talking about bullying.



## **Raising money for Mesothelioma UK**

One of our Year 3 pupils, Adrianna, is kindly raising money for the charity which supports specialist support and information for those suffering with this asbestos linked disease.

Adrianna is collecting prizes for a tombola taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

If you have any donations for this worthy cause, please do bring into the school office where we will the pass them onto Adrianna.

Thank you for your support.

# What are we learning about at Mercenfeld this term?

## EYFS – Koala Class

I'm sure you'll agree, the children have made a fantastic start to their very first year in school. I am really pleased that they have settled so well, making new friends and starting to familiarise themselves with school routines and follow school rules.

Thank-you all for your continued support with this transition, which has enabled the best possible start for the children. I am extremely proud of the progress they are making already and look forward to a positive and productive year.

Here is an overview of what the children will be learning this term in the Koala class.

### **TOPIC -Me & My Community**

This topic supports children with settling into the new rules and routines of school. It encourages them to make new friends and feel confident in their class. It also teaches them about being helpful, kind and thoughtful at home and at school. It will identify how they are unique and special, the importance of friendship and how people in their family, school and local community are important and can help them.

### **COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE**

This term, we are focussing on listening, attention and understanding when someone is speaking. The children will express ideas and feelings, make comments about what they have heard and offer explanations for why things might happen.

### **LITERACY**

Initially, the children will be identifying and then perfecting writing their name. We are looking at rhyming words and using our phonetic knowledge to recognise familiar sounds. We are also learning familiar stories to help us sequence events. Later in the term we will be identifying features of a book which will include; pages, the title, front cover, author, illustrator, back cover, blurb and spine.

### **MATHS**

Our focus in maths this term is familiarity and recognition of numbers. We will be mastering identification, counting, writing and grouping numbers to five.

### **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Our gross motor skills focus this term is using static balance such as standing on one leg and participating in cosmic yoga. We will be trying to improve our coordination too, in particular, our footwork whilst walking, running and jumping. Our fine motor skills focus will be to practice mark making and write correctly formed letters.

## PSED

We will be learning how to manage our feelings through self-regulation and are already building relationships by practicing turn-taking when playing together. This helps to install the idea of following rules.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

This element is supported through our current topic 'Me and my community'. We will identify people who help us such as the emergency services, people in school, doctors and nurses etc... and we will discover what a community is, whilst identifying and describing our immediate environment. We will also discuss that everyone has similarities and differences but are all just as special.

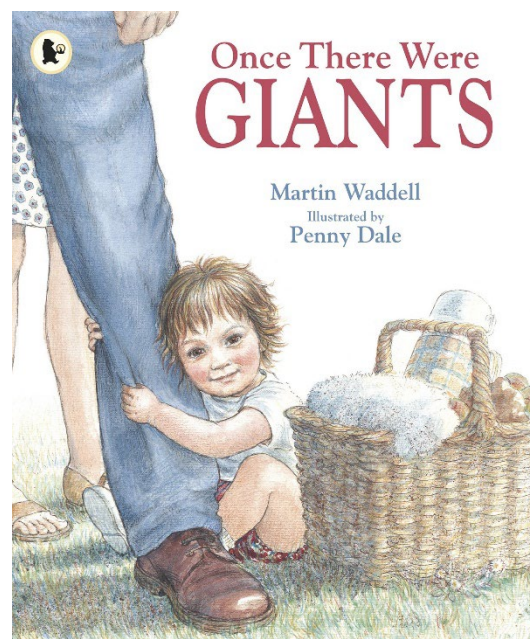
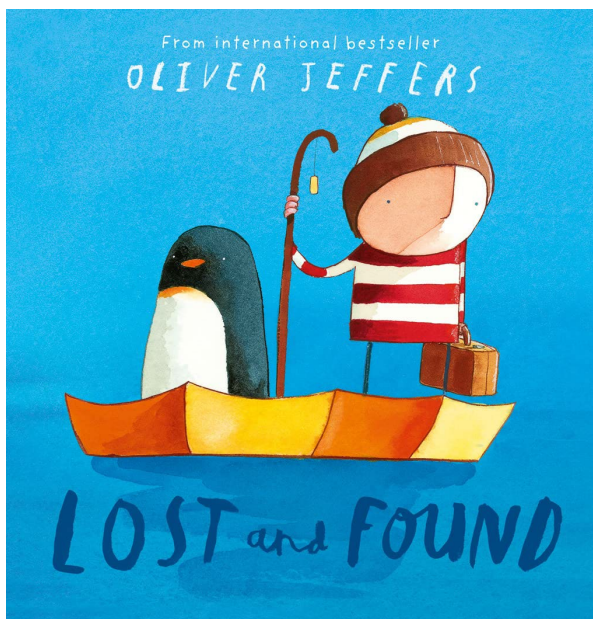
## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

We are building emergency vehicles in both the construction area and with recyclable materials in the creative area. We will be listening to and identifying different sounds both in our environment and by exploring percussion instruments. We will be working together to construct a marble run.

## MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- Tour of the school- this is to identify adults who help us in school and gain awareness of the school surroundings including key areas such as the toilets, dinner hall, library and office.
- Discovering our school community – We will be identifying areas around Markfield such as the library, church and post box.

**Focus books-** 'Lost and Found' and 'Once There Were Giants!'



## Year 1 – Toucan Class

An amazing start to the new term with all the children quickly getting into the new routines in Year 1

### English

This term we will be learning how to write reports and autobiographies. We will write our own stories based on Grandad's Island. We will be consolidating our knowledge of sounds in phonics and learning many new ones. We will practice our reading skills and continue to develop our love of reading.

### Maths

Building on our work in EYFS, we will look at place value with in 10, addition and subtraction skills and how to apply this to solve calculations.

### Topic

Our topic work will cover all sorts of exciting subjects. Our main theme will be Childhood, covering many aspects of historical understanding. In DT we will learn about the importance of a good quality shelter and design our own to keep out the weather! This links with our Science unit about Everyday Materials and their properties.

In RE we will be looking Caring for Others and linking this with Rights and Responsibilities in PSHCE. Art will see us learning about colour mixing and collage in a Funny Faces project.

PE we are practicing our Multi skills including, running, jumping and throwing.

Computing we are learning to improve our mouse skills, and how to keep safe online

Music we are looking at pulse and rhythm. This includes using our bodies to make music and percussion instruments.





## Year 2 – Manatee Class

We are really proud of how well the children have settled into their new Year 2 class

### ENGLISH

In English we are going to learning about non- chronological reports, newspapers articles and persuasive writing. We will continue to build on the sentence skills we learned in year and widen our understanding of a range of punctuation.

Some of the books we are excited to sharing include: The Magic Far Away Tree, Different Sort of Normal and Willa and Old Miss Annie.

In addition to all of this, we will be deepening our understanding of spelling patterns and rules.

### MATHS

We will see us learning about Place Value with bigger numbers, building our range of methods for understanding and solving Addition and Subtraction calculations and exploring Geometry and the Properties of Shape.

### TOPIC

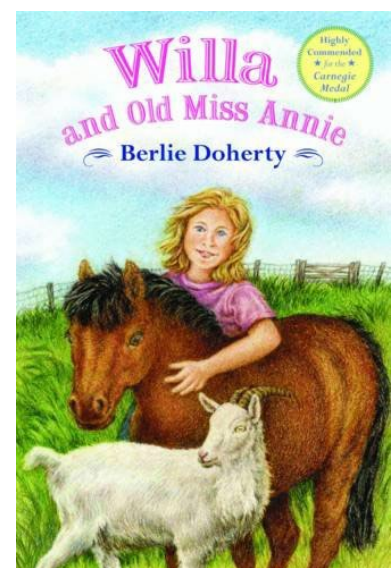
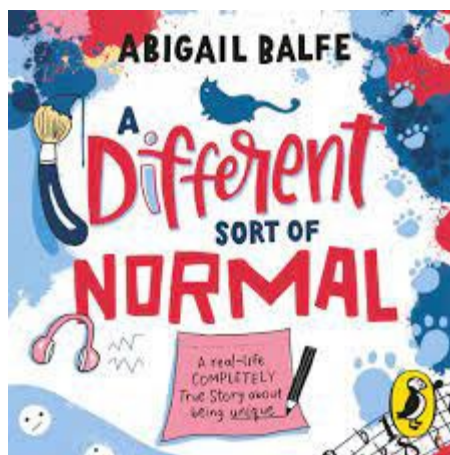
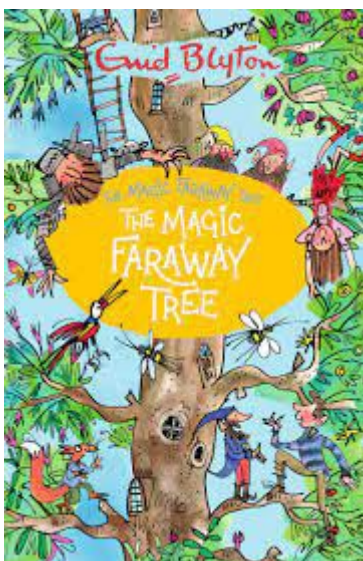
This term will see us finding more about Humans, other Living Things & their Habitats in our science work. We will look at how colours mix together and apply this to creating still life pictures.

In Geography we will be finding out about the world around us – learning the names of the continents and the features of different hot / cold countries; understanding what makes a person historically significant will be our focus in History as we learn about the lives of people such as Mary Anning and Christopher Columbus.

How was the world created? Well, we will be exploring how different religions believe the world was created and discussing our own ideas on this subject too. We will also look further at our own emotions and how they impact on others.

Learning about call and response in Music and the parts of a computer in Computing will find us learning new songs and being able to identify and name key features of a computer.

As you can see, we have a very busy and exciting time ahead of us.



## Year 3 Honey Bees and Seahorses Classes

Year 3 children have had an amazing start to the new academic year. We have established our class rules and new routines. We are really looking forward to a great year together.

### English

In English, we will be developing our writing stamina and making sure narratives have a clear structure. We will work hard to use conjunctions and ensure we use expanded noun sentences in our writing to make it more interesting. Of course, this is not forgetting that each sentence must have the correct punctuation and that our cursive handwriting is neat. Our class read is *Stig of The Dump* by Clive King, which we are really enjoying.

Our class text is 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King

### Maths

In Maths, we are working hard with our timetables. It really helps when the children practise at home and use TTRS as this supports other calculations and maths knowledge. We will be working on missing numbers on a number track and representing numbers in different ways. We will work on all area of place value. In Year 3, we work with numbers up to a thousand.

### Topic

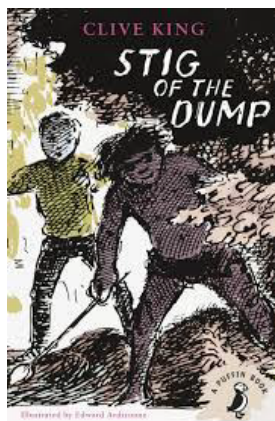
Our topic is 'Through the Ages', a history based unit. The children will learn all about British prehistory from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, including changes to people and lifestyle caused by ingenuity, invention and technological advancement. We have many exciting activities planned for this area.

In Art, we will teach the children about Bell Beaker pottery. It will allow the children to explore different clay techniques, which they use to make and decorate a Bell Beaker-style pot. We have been impressed with the work covered in this area so far, especially the sketches the children made of some prehistoric pots.

In Design and Technology, we will find about food groups and the Eatwell guide. We will learn about methods of cooking and explore these by cooking potatoes and ratatouille. The children will choose and make a taco filling according to specific design criteria.

Using artefacts and interactive learning, we will discover the main beliefs of Hinduism in RE, as well as developing an understanding of special places, festivals and symbols. The children always show such respect when learning about different cultures and religions.

As you can see, an exciting time for learning and we look forward to seeing the children embracing the opportunities ahead.



## Year 4 – Sharks and Turtles Classes

The Year 4 children have made a superb start to the year and have settled in brilliantly.

### English

This half term the children are finding out about what makes a good fear story in English and we will be planning and writing our own fear stories. They will then be learning about diaries and will be writing diaries as if they were a Roman.

Our class text is 'The Demon Dentist' by David Walliams.

### Maths

In maths we have started with some place value work and have been thinking about numbers up to 10,000. The children will then be moving on to addition and subtraction. Alongside these units the children are constantly practicing their times tables and it is amazing to see the children are doing this at home as well.

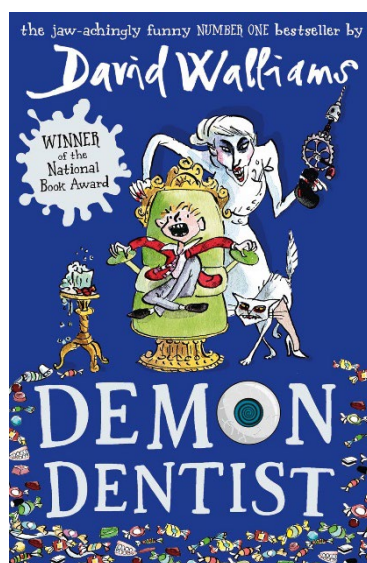
### Topic

This term our topic is called 'Emperors and Empires' where we be learning about the Ancient Romans. The children will be finding out about where the Romans came from, how they lived and what the Romans invented. In our design lesson we will also be making some Roman shields which we can learn how to march with.

Our PE units for this half term are Football and Circuit training. Most children have managed to bring in the correct PE kit on Mondays and Wednesdays so please keep this up.

Some of our other learning includes learning about Sikhism in RE, learning about e-mailing in computing and the digestive system in science.

Finally, Year 4 are in charge of arranging a Harvest celebration this term and details about this can be found in this newsletter. The children will be learning some harvest songs and will also be explaining all about the harvest.



## Year 5 – Orcas and Huskies Classes

A really great start to the new academic year in our new class locations.

### English

In English we are writing suspense narratives and making sure the children are ready to write in Year 5 by revisiting what they have learned in Year 4. We will also be creating fact files based around the Tudors and writing persuasive letters. An extremely important part of the English curriculum is reading and we will practice a different comprehension skill weekly.

Our class read is 'The Land of Roar' by Jenny McLachlan

### Maths

Our focus in Maths is place value, formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be focusing on the mastery of these methods using problem solving and word problems.

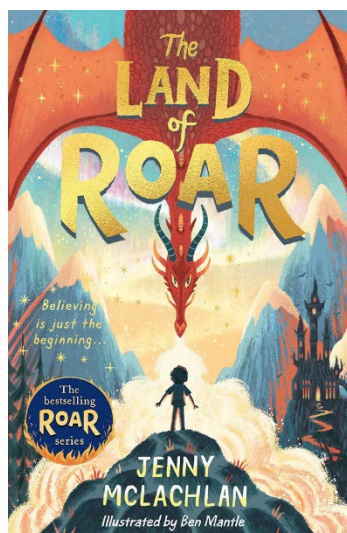
### Topic

During the Autumn term our main class topic is the Tudors. We will be linking our work to this topic where possible throughout the term. It would be great if you can find any suitable books, videos, TV shows (horrible histories) or films to view with your children at home. There is also a rich history of the Tudors in this area such as Bradgate Park, where Lady Jane Grey lived for a short time. Taking a trip to some of these places would be a great opportunity and really bring your child's education to life.

In Science we are focusing on Chemistry by looking at materials and their properties and changes of materials. We will be thinking about how and why different materials are used for different jobs and the different states of matter (solid, liquid, gas).

In RE we are looking at worship and what it means to different religions and reflecting upon what it means to us and the things that we worship/love. Basketball and circuit training are our topics in PE where we will consider how we can improve our fitness and skill for different sports (including basketball) through circuit training.

In Art we are looking at tints, tones and shades and how we can create abstract landscape art using these skills. Through PSHCE we are discussing, role playing and considering new starts and belonging, with particular emphasis on how we can help people feel welcome. In Music, with Mr G, the children are already learning how to read sheet music. They will have chance to compose their own music during the term





## **Year 6 – Tigers and Panthers Classes**

The children have settled in brilliantly and hit the ground running. We are really looking forward to an exciting academic year!

### **English**

English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about African countries. We have been really impressed with the work they have produced. The children will be moving onto writing their own narratives based on a short film. We have enjoyed starting our class book 'Freedom' by Catherine Johnson.

### **Maths**

Within the subject of Maths, the children have shown great resilience whilst undertaking their work on place value. They have been willing to take on lots of challenges and have impressed us with their mathematical knowledge. The children will then be moving onto addition and subtraction. This will include a focus on their written methods and problem solving skills.

### **Topic**

During the Autumn term, the children's topic will be 'Maafa' (black history). They will be learning all about Africa and its history. In Design and Technology we are studying 'Food For Life'. This will involve lots of cooking, which we are sure the children will enjoy. In Geography our topic is 'Our Changing World'. We will be learning about climate change and carrying out some field work. In PSHE we will be focusing on our identity and self-respect. We have already had some great discussions about this and created some brilliant work to show what we have learnt.

