

Class 4 Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

Before I begin this terms newsletter, I would like to thank you all for your kind words and advice about parenthood in the run up to the birth of my daughter. As I'm sure you are all aware by now, we have had a lovely addition to the Litchfield family. Whilst we've had some sleepless nights (and equally tiring days), it has been the best few weeks of my life. It really has been a privilege to share the run up to and subsequent arrival of my daughter with your children and yourselves – thank you.



Now, on to the New Year!

Our Topic this term is **"An African Kingdom"**. Most of our work will be cross curricular and answer many questions associated with this title.

Literacy

Our chosen texts for the first half term are all set in Africa. We'll be looking at stories which raise issues and dilemmas, as well as a traditional African folktale, which has similarities to Cinderella. For the second half of the term our texts will focus on water and the water cycle. These provide excellent opportunities to explore the key features of information and explanation texts. Spellings will continue in the usual format.

Maths

Maths planning follows the Abacus scheme and the New Primary Curriculum. Key mathematical concepts covered this term include: place value of 3 and 4 digit numbers, counting in 25s, 50s and 100s, add and subtract multiples of 10 and 100, subtracting 3 digit numbers, multiplying and dividing 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number, using factors to multiply and divide, mental multiplication and division methods, finding non unit fractions of 2 and 3 digit numbers, recognizing and naming types of angles, symmetry, properties of shapes, perimeter, money/change from £10, £20 or £50, place value of decimals, written methods for addition and subtraction, 24hr clock, and puzzles and word problems

In addition to the above, children will have a weekly mental maths test and times table test. Please support your child to ensure they are confident with their times tables up to 12 x 12. Please note that it's a national expectation that all children know their tables to 12x12 by the time they leave year 4.

History: Could you be an African King or Queen?

The children will be introduced to the history and wonderful civilization of the African Kingdom of Benin and we'll try to answer the following questions:

Why should children study Benin in school; learning about Benin today, including life for Benin people? What sort of place Benin was 1,000 year ago and what can we tell from the Benin society using the artefacts and images which have survived?

What changes took place when European settlers started trading? (Bronzes)

Why did Britain get involved and what were the effects for the Benin people?

Should the bronzes be returned?

Science: What's the matter? (States of matter)

During this topic we will explore a variety of everyday materials and develop an understanding of their properties. We will look at how some materials can change state and research the temperatures at which materials change. Children will also record and observe evaporation and condensation.

During the second half of the term, work will be focused around the water cycle.

Design Technology: Can we recreate the water cycle?

This term the children are going to make a bottle garden with a link to the water cycle. Please start saving pop bottles ready to send in for our final project!

Art/Music: What are the traditional techniques used in Africa?

Children will be researching and recreating traditional African art. We will be sketching, printing and modelling. In Music we'll hopefully have the opportunity to experience some traditional African drumming.

PSHE/SRE

The two topics for this term is; Going for goals and Good to be me.

The SRE session this term focuses on Body changes and reproduction.

PE

The children will be working with Mr. Turner for a part of this term and will also have weekly athletics sessions.

General Information

Homework will continue in the same weekly format with spellings, Maths and a piece of English work.

Kindest Regards,

C. Litchfield
Class 4 Teacher