



The Abbey Primary School

Winchester Road, Delapre, Northampton, NN4 8AZ
Tel: 01604 660100 Website: www.abbeyprimary.co.uk

21st February 2017

Lower Key Stage 2 – Topic Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable, relaxing half term break and the children are refreshed and ready to learn for the new term.

This term, for 3 weeks, we are continuing our Science and DT units. The details of these topics are explained below.

Year 3 Topic

Our topic this term is 'Let's go on an adventure. Would we like to visit Guatemala?' In our Science work we will learn all about forces including pushes and pulls, friction and air resistance. We will have the opportunity to design and make Mayan God puppets. We will develop our understanding of where Guatemala is and what the country is like. In History, we will look back to find out when and why the Mayan people left their cities.

Year 4 Topic

Our topic this term is 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' Our learning will involve the story of chocolate, where it came from and understanding the climate where cacao trees grow. We will carry out a design and technology project which will include market research, product development, creating and making chocolate bars, analysing and improving them and creating packaging. In Science, we will be doing work about materials. We will learn about dissolving, reversible and irreversible changes and the effect of eating chocolate on our teeth.

After 3 weeks we will move on to an art based topic.

Year 3 Topic - The Games Children play

In this topic the focus is a stimulus taken from the art world. The stimulus for this topic is the famous painting '*Children's Games*' by Pieter Bruegel (1560). We will be developing our use of line within sketching and develop still life drawing. In drama, we will be using a range of techniques including role on the wall, conscience alley and guided tour. We will be working alongside a specialist to enhance our work in this area. In English, we will use our learning to write a newspaper report.

Headteacher: Mrs Renuka Popat B.Ed Hons., NPQH

Year 4 Topic – From a railway carriage

In this topic the focus is a stimulus taken from the art world. The stimulus for this topic is the famous poem 'From a railway carriage' written by Robert Louis Stevenson. We will use different art techniques to draw the view from a railway carriage, look at digital photography and develop our sketching skills. We will also have the opportunity to design a train for the future applying the skills we have learnt. This unit will be linked with our English work where we will analyse poetry, perform poetry and write our own poems.

Please look at the school website www.abbeyprimary.co.uk for more curriculum information about your child's year group.

Blogs

We have recently launched our Year Group blogs which can be found on the school website and will give you the opportunity to stay up to date with all the exciting things your children get up to.

Showcase of Learning

Thank you to all the parents who attended our learning showcases in February. It was great to see you all and the children really enjoyed sharing their learning. This term the Year 3 learning showcase will be on Tuesday 28th March and the Year 4 learning showcase will be on Monday 27th March these sessions run from 2:30pm to 2:50pm. We feel it is very valuable for the children to share their learning with you and also for you to see their classroom environment. Therefore you are invited to come into school during these sessions to spend time with your child in their classroom. It would be lovely to see you!

Reading

Your child is expected to read regularly at home (at least 3 times a week to an adult) and their reading record is checked by their class teacher on a weekly basis. We encourage all parents/carers and grandparents to read with their children at home to further develop their child's reading skills. Please can we remind you to date, sign and make a positive comment regarding your child's reading in their reading record. The children are also able to read age appropriate e-books through Bug Club and their password can be found on their password card. Although in Key Stage 2 we encourage independent reading, it is essential that the children continue to share books with you, visit the local library, and discuss stories they have read.

Online Resources

The children have access to a wealth of resources which are available to use both in and out of school. These websites and programmes offer an interactive and fun way for the children to extend their learning. We highly recommend the children use these regularly. Links can be found on the school website to My Maths, Bug club, Espresso and Purple Mash. If your child has any problems logging into any of these please let your child's class teacher know.

Homework

Your child will receive homework weekly. The children have a homework diary and they are responsible for recording the tasks we set them. Please feel free to use this diary to

communicate with your class teacher.

Subject	Day given out	Due in
Maths	Monday	Thursday
Literacy	Thursday	Monday
Topic Homework	This will be given out at the end of a term.	

My Maths

The children will continue to receive a weekly My Maths homework which is set on a Monday and is due in on a Thursday. The class with the highest percentage receives a trophy and the top 3 classes are published in the weekly newsletter. Please encourage your child to complete this homework. If your child does not have access to the internet at home then they have the opportunity to complete it in The Success Centre in school.

PE Kit

Classes have PE twice week for an hour. The sessions may be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school **every day**. We recommend you include a jumper, jogging bottoms (no bright colours) and trainers/plimsolls in case the lesson takes place outdoors, and that all jewellery is removed prior to coming to school. This includes earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

Important Diary Dates

Wednesday 22nd February - Online safety meeting for parents 6.00pm

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Thursday 9th March 2017 - Mrs Ward's Class assembly 9.05am

Thursday 9th March 2017 - Choir to Big Sing

Tuesday 14th March 2017 - TLCs 3.30 – 7.00pm

Thursday 16th March 2017 - TLCs 4.00 – 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd March 2017 - Friends Mother's Day shop 3.00pm

Thursday 23rd March 2017 - Friends Mother's shop 3.00pm

Friday 24th March - Mufti Day for Red Nose Day

Monday 27th March 2017 - Year 3 Ukulele Concert 2.00pm

Monday 27th March 2017 - Year 4 Learning Showcase 2.30 – 2.50pm

Tuesday 28th March 2017 - Year 3 Learning Showcase 2.30 – 2.50pm

Thursday 30th March - KS2 Musical Concert 1.45pm

Friday 31st March 2017 - School closes for Easter break 3.00pm.

If you have any questions regarding our topic work and homework please speak to your child's Class teacher at the end of the school day. We are more than happy to help!

Yours sincerely

Miss Benjamin
Lower Key Stage 2 Coordinator