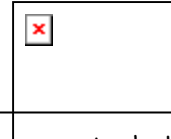


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Curriculum Newsletter for Pine Class - Autumn Term 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year, and I hope your child is feeling settled in Pine Class. I hope you find the following information about our curriculum this term useful and that it will help you to support your child with their learning at home.

Literacy

We will be studying a range of writing genres this term, beginning with stories set in imaginary worlds. We will read a range of fantasy settings and explore how authors use powerful descriptive language to create settings, characters and atmosphere, and use them as models for writing our own setting descriptions. We will then move onto studying plays, focusing in particular on recognising the conventions for writing play scripts and how to read and perform scripts effectively. After half term we will study non-fiction texts through our work on recounts in the form of newspapers and magazines. This will involve identifying the language and presentation features of newspaper articles and using them in our own newspaper-style reports. Finally, we shall finish the term with a focus on poetry. This will involve focusing on creating images through the effective use of language devices such as similes, metaphors and personification. Guided Reading and a focused spelling lesson will also form an integral part of our timetable across the term.

Wherever possible, the focus texts used for our Literacy work this term will be linked to our History topic of the Ancient Greeks as part of our cross-curricula learning. This will create meaningful opportunities to link, consolidate and extend the children's learning in a range of contexts.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will continue to consolidate our understanding of key number facts, such as number bonds, counting sequences and place value. We shall develop our use of mental and written methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide. We will classify polygons and will begin to understand and measure area. We will develop our knowledge of fractions to help us identify equivalent fractions and recognise mixed numbers. We shall interpret and construct tally charts, pictograms and graphs. We shall develop our skills in telling the time on both analogue and digital clocks, including use of the 24-hour clock.

Science

We will begin by studying the topic of Friction. The children will learn that forces can be measured and compared and will perform practical activities to investigate friction, air resistance and water resistance. They will recognise examples of how friction can be useful.

After half term we will be learning about characteristics of materials. We shall be investigating the properties of different materials and how they are suited for their particular uses.

History

We will be studying Ancient Greece throughout the term. We will use a range of sources to discover how people lived in the ancient Greek empire and learn about their beliefs, culture, society and warfare. We

shall also find out about how we are still influenced by ancient *Greek* ideas today, focusing in particular on the *Olympic Games*.

ICT

During the first half of the term we will be learning about Music Technology. We will learn how to use Dance E-Jay (specialist music software) to explore the different elements of structure in a piece of music and construct their own song. The second half of the term will focus upon developing skills in using PowerPoint, and we will produce a presentation linked to our *Ancient Greece* topic.

We will also use ICT to support our learning in various ways across the curriculum, such as for publishing our work and researching information.

Art

We are going to complete a project called 'Talking Textiles'. This will involve exploring different materials and ways of joining fabric. We will then use our skills to produce a piece of work that tells the story of a famous *Greek* myth.

Design Technology

We are going to make money containers. We will investigate different types of money boxes and then design and make our own money box using papier-mâché.

Religious Education

We will begin by learning about the Bible and develop our understanding of why it is important for Christians. We will then think about Journeys and identify important milestones in our life journeys. We will look at the Christian act of baptism and compare it with Muslim naming ceremonies. As we approach Christmas, we shall focus on the Nativity Story and deepen our understanding of this special journey.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

We will be thinking about choices and discussing the different consequences that our choices can have. We shall consider what can influence our choices and how we make decisions.

Physical Education

We will be developing our sending, receiving, passing and travelling skills in Hockey this half term, as well as developing our tactics for keeping possession. We will also explore Orienteering activities. After half term we will be exploring movement, levels and transitions through Dance and will continue to work on their fundamental PE skills.

Music

Our focus for the term is 'Painting with Sounds'. We will learn about how sounds made on different musical instruments can be played expressively and how sounds can be used to describe the mood of pictures and words.

If you have any queries or would like any further information then please do not hesitate to pop in and see me.

With best wishes,

Miss. Jennifer Kelland
Pine Class Teacher