

"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."
(Matthew: 17 v20)

HEADTEACHER: MR M. REYNOLDS

SENCO: MRS K. MORRISON

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS C. WINSLADE

JOINT VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MR B. SEMPLE & MR C. THOMPSON

January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you had a well-deserved break over the Christmas period and enjoyed your Christmas time together. We also hope the children are enjoying being back at school for Term 3!

We start a new topic this term and this will continue into Term 4. We will be learning about "Women's Suffrage in Britain", studying the importance of this aspect of British history, extending the children's knowledge on what they already know and seeing how it was a significant turning point in British history. We will be finding out the difference between 'suffragists' and 'suffragettes', looking in detail at Millicent Fawcett and everything she achieved. I hope this is a topic that will inspire and motivate the children and encourage them to make links to what they understand about equality (not limiting that to gender equality) both in Britain and the rest of the world. To enhance our learning, we will be reading "The Unstoppable Letty Pegg" by Iszi Lawrence. The book explores themes of friendship, gives insights into schooling and class divisions during Edwardian times along with a historically accurate adventure into women's suffrage in 1910 – with some jiu-jitsu thrown in as well! We will also be drawing on the information in "Suffragette: The Battle for Equality" by David Roberts.

Our Geography this term will involve improving our map reading skills! We will be using Ordnance Survey maps in order to learn more about symbols and how to use four and six figure grid references. In RE we are asking the question "What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?" We will recap on the Five Pillars of Islam and look at different aspects of life for Muslims in the UK, investigating what matters to Muslims and making links between our lives and the lives of Muslims. In Science, our theme is "Living Things and Their Habitats" and we will be looking at reproduction in plants and animals. We will mainly concentrate on life cycles of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects and although this briefly covers reproduction in humans (as a mammal), we will be looking at that in more detail later in the year and I will write to you with further information before we do.

Practical Information:

PE Days - Our PE days have changed this term! We are very fortunate to have Molly Davies, a community coach from Kent County Cricket Club, working with us in PE this term. She will be with us on a **Wednesday**, therefore, this term, children should come to school in their **PE kit on Wednesday NOT Monday**. As the weather will be cooler, they should wear their house T-shirt, plain joggers and a plain sweatshirt for outdoor PE lessons.

Forest School – We have Forest School on **Thursday afternoon**. All the class will be going outside during these sessions, Mr Chidwick, Mrs Heath and I will be with them and we will continue to start our session with OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities) before our Forest School activities and outdoor activities (such as looking after our lovely grounds, our outdoor area and the Spiritual Garden). Please ensure the children have appropriate clothing for Forest School, including a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves as well as their wellies.

Reading - Reading books are sent home every day and they need to be brought to school, with your child's Reading Record, signed, each day. Please do listen to your child read as much as you can, this really helps them to develop their reading skills. Please also use the information in the Reading Record to assist with reading at home, as well as spellings.

SATS Companion and Times Table Rock Stars – the children all have log-ins for these programmes and I would encourage them to use them! They are excellent for reinforcing what we have been learning at school and giving the children chance to practise a wide variety of concepts. SATS Companion covers Maths and English, the children can choose which areas they feel they would like to practise further and I will also be regularly setting work for them to complete. They can gain rewards for completing work on SATS Companion and it a valuable tool to use in the lead up to SATs for Year 6, but also consolidating learning in Year 5. TTRS is a fantastic programme for developing fluency in times tables, covering multiplication and division facts – and gives the children chance to compete against each other!

Mrs Heath will continue to work with us as our teaching assistant. We are all looking forward to a great year term with you and your children. If you need to contact us, please do so via the school office. Thank you!

Regards

Miss R Cooper and Mrs C Heath

