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Celebrating Learning Together

8th January 2020

Dear Koala Class families,

Welcome back. We hope you had a relaxing break and are now raring to go! Thank you for your kind Christmas gifts, they were very much appreciated. This may be a short term, but we have a lot to fit in.

Topics

Our Geography topic will be Our Changing World, and we will learn about the effect of humans and nature on our planet.

In Art, we will be learning about trompe l'oeil (trick of the eye) and entering our best pieces into the Burton Art Gallery School's Exhibition.

In DT we will be practising a variety of food preparation techniques, and making pizza. Children will learn the principles of dough making and how to create a tomato sauce topping from scratch.

In PSHE we will be looking at Rules, Rights and Responsibilities in addition to work on keeping healthy.

In RE we will be learning about Hinduism and why Christians believe that Jesus saved them.

In Science we will be learning about Forces.

In Music we will be looking at Pop Ballads, and learning some recorder skills.

In Computing we will be continuing our work on programming using Code.org.

Our History topic will be Crime and Punishment, and children will learn how this has changed in Britain from Roman times to the present day.

Enrichment

We are currently trying to arrange a trip to Exeter to visit places of worship and possibly a Court.

The Life Bus will be visiting in the second half term, where children will learn different life skills from the visiting professionals.

If anyone knows someone (or is themselves) involved in law-keeping in any way, we would love to hear from them in school please as part of our Crime and Punishment topic. Please pass me any details and we can try and arrange a mutually convenient time.

Homework

Reading (all year groups)

Ideally, children should be reading every day. As a minimum, we ask that children read to an adult at least three times a week. If you have having trouble getting your child interested in reading, please let us know and we can help them to find a book they enjoy more. Please record what is read in the homework diary and make sure an adult has signed this. Children will earn one house point for every time they read.

Year Four and Five

The Year Five maths and spellings homework will continue as before. Children need to have completed all set activities on Education City by the end of term to get homework golden time. If you would prefer paper homework, please let me know.

The Year Fours will be the first cohort to complete the Government's new multiplication check. This is an online test that children will complete in the Summer Term. Children will be expected to answer all times table questions up to 12x12, and will have 6 seconds to type in their answers. Any times table practice at home will therefore be very beneficial for them (and for children in other year groups who are not yet secure).

Year Six

Children in Year Six will now begin their preparation for SATS. This will involve extra smaller group sessions across the week, where we will build up exam technique and address individual needs. On Wednesdays, children will be set some SPAG homework by Mrs Gough to complete for the following Wednesday. On Fridays, children will be set some maths homework by Mr Alford, which will be due in the following Friday. It is crucial this is completed on time, as children will be discussing answers and going through difficulties during the booster sessions and therefore will not be able to fully participate if they have not attempted them. The children will be bringing the homework questions back in books. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 to cover the cost of these books.

There will be a meeting for all Year Six families on Monday 13th January straight after school, where I will explain what children can expect in the run up to SATs, discuss the format of the tests and answer any questions you may have.

As always, if you have any questions, please email or pop in to the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Lois Gough



Website: www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk