



## Welcome to Class 8 Spring Term

Happy New Year!

We have already had a great start to the school year, with the children settling and producing some great work. We have an equally busy term ahead, so this newsletter will tell you all about what we are going to be doing in our class and all the fantastic things we will be learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support and if you need any advice, support or help, do come and see us after school.

God Bless Mrs Sims, Miss Oliver and Miss Mc Gee.

### English

#### Writing

We'll be using the texts 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, The Highway Man by Alfred Noyes, The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo and 'The Great Choco Plot' by Christ Callaghan. We will also be using the story/film UP. These will help us to write a character and setting descriptions, Kennings Poems, adverts and stories.

#### Reading

Each week the children will have three reading lessons where they will focus on summarising, vocabulary, inference, deduction and discuss the author's choice of words! In addition to this, we will be sharing a class novel weekly with the children. In addition to this, children will continue to use Reading Plus to develop these skills.

#### Handwriting

Weekly handwriting lessons will take place and children who need a little extra practise will have a handwriting book to take home. We are following a handwriting scheme called letter-join.

#### Spelling

We are also adopting a new spelling scheme. Spelling lessons will also take place weekly. Spellings will continue to be given as homework. Year 3 and 4 Common Exception words can be found online.

### Maths

Maths work is divided into topics which last for three or four weeks. Our topics this term are:

Multiplication

Length

Fractions

Decimals



The children will solve reasoning problems for each topic, which will require the children to apply their learning and explain how they reach an answer. Knowing the times table facts will really help in lessons.

The children will be completing a nationwide Year 4 Multiplication check next term. This check will test them on all their times tables up to 12x 12.

### Science

The first topic is 'States of Matter'. Children will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases and will explore changes made when materials are heated and cooled. The second topic is 'Electricity'.

Children will identify common objects that require electricity and learn which materials are conductors and insulators. Children will learn how to make an electrical circuit and will explore materials which will conduct electricity to light a bulb.

### History and Geography

Our History and Geography topic this term is 'It's raining, It's pouring'. We will be learning about physical and human Geography in our local area and in locations around the world. We will be using our knowledge of maps and atlases to search for information, locating deserts, rainforests and temperate regions. We will learn about climate change and how our current weather is affected by this. We will also look at major changes on earth, for example, the destruction of the rainforests over time and the increase in light pollution!

### PE

This term we will be working with Urban Chaos to learn dances, evaluate dances and choreograph sections of dance ourselves.

We will also continue to developing our ball skills through invasion games. P.E. lessons will continue to be on a Monday and a Thursday.

### Music

This term we will continue to learn how to play the recorder. We will develop our skills in performing, playing and listening to music. We will also be developing pulse and groove through improvisation and using technology to enhance our learning.

## RE

Religious Education will take several different forms this year – such as writing art and music - to ensure that the children continue to learn and grow spiritually. Lessons will come from the 'Come and See' curriculum. The first topic that we will look at is 'Community'.

Children will learn about belonging to a community and how God chooses people to serve Him through their parish communities. The second topic is 'Giving and Receiving'. Children will learn about how we gather in love and how we gather at Mass. They will also learn about the Introductory and Communion Rite, describing and making links with scripture and beliefs. The third topic is 'Self Discipline'. Children will learn about how to live during Lent in God's way and the events of Holy Week and Good Friday.



## D&T

In this topic, the children will be designing and making. In this topic, the children will design a pair of Viking shoes. They will assume the role of a local cobbler (shoe maker) and design and make a pair of turnshoes shoes for a member of a Viking family from Thormad (Thornaby). They will learn a variety of stitching techniques and create their own pattern for the shoes.



## French

This term our French topic is 'At the Tea room'. By the end of this topic pupils will have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform a short role-play in a French tea room. Pupils will learn how to say and write what they are ordering to eat and/or drink using a wider range of vocabulary alongside very useful transactional language.



## Computing

Our first topic will be 'Digital Literacy'. Children will develop their understanding of trustworthy websites, sources and information. They will also learn about the benefits and risks of using different websites and apps. Our second topic is 'Programming'. Children will learn how to create a program and use a range of events and inputs to alter them. They will learn how to identify and solve problems to create, modify or fix an algorithm.

## Art

In this topic, the children will be introduced to the artist Charles Fazzino and explore his 3D pop artwork. They will explore how photographers capture cityscapes representing different colours and lighting. The children will produce a silhouette cityscape of London using watercolour and black ink.



## Homework

We appreciate your support with homework this year. The homework is designed to challenge the children with skills we have learned in school. Should you be struggling with any homework, please don't hesitate to ask for help from school.

Our homework will be given on a Friday and tested the following **Friday**. We will check homework on Wednesdays to make sure the children have started.

**Times tables** – Daily practise on TTRS or SUMDOG

**Spellings** – Look, cover, check **3x** a week.

**Maths** – Tasks set on Sumdog.

**Reading** - We ask that the children try to read for at least **10 minutes** every night. This could be their school reading book, or their own book that they are enjoying reading or Reading plus. They need to read 5 times a week.

**Reading Plus** – children should complete at least 3 texts at home each week.

**TT Rockstars** – Practise a few minutes a day. Little and often will help you retain facts.

## Important Dates

This term, our PE Days are **Mondays** and **Thursdays** for the first half term and **Monday** and **Wednesdays** for the second half-term – children require a kit for these lessons.

Half-term holiday begins on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Children return to school on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**.

Easter holiday begins on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** returning on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**.

**Carlton Residential 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May.**

Holy Communion Preparation - Spring 2 - Dates to follow.