

Dear Parents,

This term our work will be connected to the subject of The Victorians. We will be looking at how it all began, its effects on life at home and abroad (particularly the Victorian Empire) and the legacy the Victorians left. The children will research influential people of the era, report on the great exhibition, look at first hand recounts of what it was like living in a workhouse and study sections from Oliver Twist. Art will also be taught within history as the children will be analysing the works of some of the pre-Raphaelites and studying William Morrison and the art and crafts movement- even creating a decoupage piece of artwork. We will be having a competition as to who can design the sturdiest bridge after studying the structures of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The Victorians is a fascinating project that children love to learn about. If you have any resources that we could borrow, please do not hesitate to bring them in.

Much of the English will also be connected to this time in history. Children will be writing biographies, reading extracts from Oliver Twist and analysing primary and secondary sources to report on major historical events. As a class, we will be reading Street Child (play). Our writing will also be inspired by these texts. Our focus this term will be on consolidation of learning; guiding the children to use and apply, with increasing accuracy and creativity, a variety of language and grammatical features. Please remember to discuss with your child whatever it is they are reading at home, be it magazines, newspapers, poems, leaflets or even the back of cereal boxes! You could explore the vocabulary, sentence structure, purpose, plot development or genre.

We will also be covering British Values of mutual respect and tolerance of those of different cultures, faiths and belief during PSHE sessions.

This term, we will be focussing quite heavily on the children's mathematical skills in areas of shape, decimals, data and percentages. We will work on developing their abilities to independently understand the process of multi-step problems and to apply sound calculation skills to them. Each week, we will undertake a purely arithmetic-based session as well as a problem solving lesson to improve their levels of confidence, speed and efficiency. It will be of great benefit to your child that you keep their skills fresh by working on their maths at home. Day to day living provides ample opportunities to apply maths in real life contexts: *the time is 7:07pm. I put the dinner in the oven 45 minutes ago. What time did I put it in? I need 8 packs of beans costing 43p each. How much will I spend altogether? I have spent $\frac{3}{4}$ of my money. I have £2.60 left. How much money did I begin with?* It takes a little time but will be of great benefit to them.

In Science, the children will be investigating life cycles and relationships: designing experiments to explore plant growth and creating their own theories as to how to make the most productive crop for the sensory garden. Furthermore, they will be looking at how different animals survive.

Mrs Callaghan will be teaching Sycamore on a Friday: she will be focusing on specific grammar needs of the cohort in English; applying mathematical skills learnt over the year into problem solving in maths; and focusing on Judaism in RE.

Homework will be set every Thursday and is expected back in school on Thursday mornings. It should be done neatly and in as much detail as possible. Due to the challenges of the curriculum, homework is an important part of your child's learning. I use it to keep skills fresh. Please encourage your child to complete the tasks to the best of their abilities. If they require your help, just write a little note as to where you supported them which tells me what we need to work on. In addition, spelling and times tables will now be given out and tested on Mondays.

Please ensure your child brings in their PE kit on a Monday and it stays in school throughout the week. There will be a timetabled session on a Friday afternoon that will probably be outside (even in the rain) and an indoor OR outdoor lesson at an unscheduled time. Appropriate kit must be worn. We will also be continuing with 'Wake Up Shake Up' every morning.

As usual, if there is any parent or family member who would like to come in and share their knowledge about any of the above subjects, they are more than welcome. Also, please do not hesitate to come in and see me if you have any queries.

Mrs Bailey