



Asfordby Hill Primary School

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,

Leicestershire LE14 3RB

☎ 01664 812244

Email: admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk

www.asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs. P. Millward
Chair of Governors: Rev. N Ashton

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful break and that all the children are well rested and ready to tackle their next term in Year 3. We've got an exciting and busy term ahead of us!

We will be starting the term with our 'Amazing Aztecs' topic. Through our topic, we will be investigating the ancient Aztec empire; we will be asking questions about how life today compares to life during the Aztec civilisation and studying artwork and artefacts from the period including Aztec masks. We will also be building upon our collage skills from Year 2 to create our own Aztec masks. This topic not only builds upon last term's learning about the Stone Age but, by revisiting skills and knowledge from last term it will ensure children are able to retrieve knowledge effectively and move taught material from short term to long term memory. Some of the key vocabulary we will be exploring through our topic is invade, pillage, settlements, agriculture, ruler and religious difference. It would be useful for you to discuss the concepts we are learning in school at home.

In science last term we learnt about animal and human nutrition (fauna). This term we will be moving onto learning about plants (flora), how they are structured and how they adapt to their environment. As part of 'Melton in Bloom', our class will be planting into a wheelbarrow. Our theme will be Italy and the children will be choosing plants based upon their origin and colours. We will be building upon the vocabulary taught in KS1 to ensure that children can retrieve their knowledge of plants effectively and efficiently and use this to contribute to discussions as well as written work. This term's science vocabulary includes roots, stem, leaves, petal, pollen, nutrients and seed dispersal. Throughout the term, the children will also be developing their programming skills by programming their own animations to teach other children about e-safety, this will also form part of our learning in PSHE and link to Safer Internet Day in February. Hopefully these will be published via our class blog. After half term, we will be exploring the Alps in Geography. We will be using our mapping skills and investigating how people have adapted buildings and vehicles to be more suitable for the region. In design and technology, we will create our own shelters suitable for keeping a mountain explorer safe, warm and dry. The children will test the effectiveness of their shelters and record their results. In music, we will begin to work on composition, creating our own pieces of digital music using Garage Band. This will build upon the skills we learnt in Year 2 composition as well as when learning to play the ukulele last term. Finally, our French learning moves on to 'En Classe' in which we will learn about different objects and instructions. We will continue to use French greetings daily in the classroom.

In English this term, we will initially be focusing on developing the children's use of accurate punctuation, particularly in narrative. We will be using a range of texts linking to our work in History, Science and Geography as well as Aztec myths such as the Eagle and the Snake. A few books which we will be using to inspire our writing this term are *The Shaman's Apprentice*, *The Time Travelling Cat* and *the Aztec Sacrifice*, *Mountains of the World: 1* and *National Trust: I Am the Seed That Grew*





Asfordby Hill Primary School

Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire LE14 3RB

☎ 01664 812244

Email: admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk

www.asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs. P. Millward
Chair of Governors: Rev. N Ashton

the Tree. As a school, we aim to help develop children's writing through exploring quality models and texts. We will analyse texts before writing slowly and concisely, incorporating a broad range of adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures. The grammar, punctuation, spelling and language skills that they learn throughout this process should enable them to write high quality, creative pieces independently. We will move onto writing newspaper articles based on the book 'Aztec News' by Phillip Steele. This will require the children to think more about the audience and purpose of their writing and adjust the formality and structure accordingly. Reading is a great way for children to be absorbed in new vocabulary and be exposed to high quality writing. Reading at home for ten minutes a day can have a huge impact on children's reading and writing abilities as well as their understanding of the wider world. The children were engrossed in both of our class books last term; *The Accidental Prime Minister* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. This term we hope to continue to nurture that love for reading and literature with *The Beast of Buckingham Palace* and *the Grunts in Trouble*. If the children wish to bring a copy of the text from home to read along that would be great.

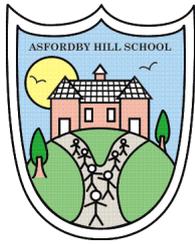
In maths, we will initially be building on last term's place value, addition and subtraction and multiplication and division skills; providing the children with a range of written and mental strategies to tackle problems with. After this, we will be moving onto using money, working with statistics, measuring length, calculating perimeter before finally developing our understanding of fractions. Within this, we will be continuing with our mastery approach to learning: once a child has shown that they are proficient in the skill and can apply it (fluency), we can go deeper by manipulating this skill and reason using their knowledge to solving complex problems.

Throughout the year, Rowan class will be getting to grips with what it means to be British and our associated values. The core values that we will be exploring are *democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty* and *mutual respect and tolerance* for those of differing faiths and cultures. We will be looking closely at what each one of these statements means and how it applies to the children and their lives. We will also be comparing how modern governments have developed ideas and actions initially formed by ancient civilisations, linking this to our history study into the Aztecs. At Asfordby Hill, we pride ourselves on our diversity and equality and try to develop personally in seven key areas. Last term, we focussed on perseverance and self-control. This term we will be trying to develop and demonstrate gratitude, optimism and understanding others.

Homework: please see this term's LEARNING FROM HOME booklet. A copy of this can be found on the Rowan class page on the school's website.

PE will be taught weekly on a Thursday and Friday afternoon. We are lucky enough to be receiving specialist gymnastics coaching for the first half term during our Friday session. However, children will need access to their PE kit at all times as if the weather is good or if the children would benefit from additional activity, we may have further PE outside of our scheduled times.





Asfordby Hill Primary School

**Asfordby Hill, Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire LE14 3RB**

☎ 01664 812244

Email: admin@asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk

www.asfordbyhill.leics.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs. P. Millward
Chair of Governors: Rev. N Ashton

As with last term, all I ask from the children is that they work hard and persevere when things get tricky. This term will be filled with challenges but I have no doubt in my mind that they can and will achieve great things.

If there are any ways in which you or a family member could support our learning this term, be it through reading or something linked to the term's curriculum, please pop in and see me. Rowan class are always grateful for additional adults sharing their knowledge and experiences with us.

As always, if you have any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to me.

Miss Tierney