

Tuesday 12th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Information for parents in Earth Class
Autumn 2023 - Term 1

Welcome back to a new academic year at St. Peter's CEP. We are already thoroughly enjoying working with your children in Earth class and are already discovering and learning about many new and exciting things. Below is a summary of some of the key points for term 1. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Earth Classroom

The children have already adjusted to their new classroom brilliantly. There are tables for the children to work at but also areas for the children to have a quiet moment (our Worship Area) and to enjoy a book (our Book Corner). To help the children with personal organisation, each child has been given their own stationery pack with all the essential tools they will need for their lessons. They will store this equipment in their own personal tray. Shared equipment is also provided which the children help themselves to, building on their independence in their learning. The children have been amazing so far at bringing in essential items from home each day, for example a water bottle, jacket and book bag. To give you a sneak peek here are some pictures of our learning environment in Earth Class.



Reading at home

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. If they have completed the Phonics reading books, your child will be bringing home a colour-banded reading book which will match their ability. The Phonics reading book (Little Wandle) will be brought home every Friday. These will also need to be returned every Friday too. If your child is reading a colour-banded book they can change this as often as they need to.

A sharing book. Your child might not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. This will be chosen from our library. Our library day is Friday so your child will need to return this book every Friday in order to choose a new one.

We will start to send home the reading practice book once we have assessed your child in Phonics. These assessments will hopefully be completed by the second week of term.

PE

Our **PE days** are **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** so please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit on these days. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days and will be in the kit the whole day. As we are entering Autumn, please provide your child with jogging bottoms and a waterproof jacket.

Values

Each term we will be focusing on different values in class and school Collective Acts of Worship. In term 1 the value is Joy, and we will be linking our reflections to the verse from Philippians 4:4, "Always be full of joy in the Lord." We shall look at how joy is different to happiness and how, with God's strength, we can be joyful in good and bad times in our lives. We will be rewarding evidence of this value in our weekly Star of the Week certificates.

HOME LEARNING

In Earth class home learning should be completed nightly to build on core skills and help with their progression in Maths, Reading and Writing. 20 minutes each day should be spent on Reading, Maths practice and Spelling practice. Most of these activities are done remotely and the children will be given access to certain websites with a username and password. These are glued in the front of their reading records.

Activity	Information
Daily Reading	10 minutes - 3 times a week with an adult, using a Phonics reading book or colour-band book. Please sign the reading record every time you hear your child read at home.
Daily number bonds or Times table practice	5 minutes - Times Table Rockstars website with set levels to practise. Use login details to access and complete.
Daily spelling practice	5 minutes - Using the Spelling Shed website with a specific set of words each week. Use login details to access and complete. Look at the EdShed login.
Maths Activity (once a week)	15 minutes - Alternate between MyMaths or a Maths Challenge set by the teacher. This will be set every Monday.

Spelling

Weekly spellings will be given electronically on a Friday using the website Spelling Shed. Your login for this is stuck in to your child's Reading Record (EdShed). Your child will be set an assignment and learning will take place through a game-like format that will help build your child's confidence in spelling. Earth class will be competing against the rest of the school to get as many points as they can, earning points each time they play.

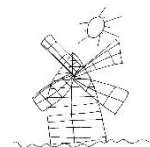
Maths (MyMaths and Times Table Rock Stars)

To help support the learning of Maths in class, your child has access to the Times Table Rock Stars website. Times Table Rock Stars is a website and app which allows children to challenge themselves and others on times tables. We will also use this in class from time to time to teach the children the different functions the website has to support times table learning.

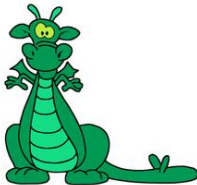

I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework please don't hesitate to contact us or encourage your child to speak to us in class. If you would like to speak to us remember that you can catch us at the end of the day for a brief chat or email the school office to arrange a meeting.




We look forward to a fun beginning to this school year and getting to know all the children of Earth class.

Mrs Gordon and Mrs Smith



Earth Class Curriculum Information for Term 1

Subject	To be covered
English	<p>In English this term we will focus on both fiction and non-fiction pieces of text, linked with our History topic of Monarchy. Our fiction piece will be a narrative based on the warning story, Kassim and the Greedy Dragon. In this piece of writing, we will search for features of a story, such as 'sentences of 3', using the senses and time conjunctions.</p> <p>Following our trip to the Tower of London we will be recounting the trip using time conjunctions to structure the writing.</p> <p>To help the children understand more about the topic related to English this term it would be useful to read both fiction and non-fiction books around Kings and Queens. Please bring any topic-related books in for the children to share.</p> <p>A warning story</p>  
Maths	<p>In Maths, this term we will be focusing on securing your child's understanding of place value of numbers. We will be learning how to represent 2-digit numbers using different manipulatives such as ten sticks and ones. Year 2 will focus on numbers to 100 and will also learn how to partition numbers in different ways. The children will use their knowledge of numbers to answer a range of different reasoning problems.</p> <p>We will then begin to develop your child's ability to add and subtract different numbers. Year 2 will learn how to add and subtract up to two, 2-digit numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Children can practise different combinations of numbers to make 10, 20 and 100 e.g. $3 + 7 = 10$, $3 + 17 = 20$, $3 + 97 = 100$.Regular practice of 2, 5, and 10 times tables for year 2 is also important.Children can practise reading and writing numbers accurately and putting them in size order.
Science	<p>This term in Science the children will be learning about Animals including Humans. The pupils will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Know about the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival.Describe the importance of exercise, balanced diet and hygiene for humans.Describe the main changes as young animals, including humans, grow into adults. <p>Some activities that children can complete to help them achieve this terms learning are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with an adult why healthy eating and moderate daily exercise is important for good health. <p>Recognise the life cycle of animals including humans. Identifying key features of each category including changes in physical changes and behaviour.</p>
History	<p>This term, Earth class are learning about Monarchs and answering the question, 'What is a monarch?' They will find out about the role of a monarch and compare the monarchy today with the monarchy in the past. Pupils will investigate how William the Conqueror became King and learn how he used castles to rule. The children will study different types of castles and consider how these evolved over time. We will be visiting The Tower of London as part of this unit of work.</p> 
RE	 <p>In term one our question is 'Who made the world?' The children will be exploring this concept through an exploration of the story of the story of creation from Genesis 1. Children will be able to retell this story with some detail and to recognise that 'creation' is the beginning of the 'big story' of the bible. Children will also learn about what the story tells Christians about God, Creation and the world.</p>
Art	<p>This term, in Art, we will be investigating maps as a stimulus for drawing. As a result of this map art, the children will be learning how to make felt, create abstract maps and experiment with printing possibilities.</p> 
P.E.	<p>This term our PE days are on Wednesdays and Thursdays. PE kits are expected to be worn on these days.</p> <p>Year 2 Term 1 Our visiting specialist will be teaching Infant Agility on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Mrs Smith will be teaching Multiskills on Thursdays.</p>
P.S.H.E.	<p>This term we will be exploring relationships in Year 2 using the SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) approach to teaching PSHE.</p> <p>UNIT 1: Me and My Relationships</p> <p>Children will explore the skills needed for successful friendships and teamwork. They'll also be thinking about people who are special to them and who they can turn to for help, when needed.</p> <p>Click this link for activities to support your child with this:</p> <p>https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf/scarf-at-home/me-and-my-relationships</p>
Computing	<p>This term our focus of learning is Multimedia. In term one we will explore what it means to be a researcher and use a variety of research tools to find facts about a topic of choice related to our history topic this term. We will then present our findings using a presentation software. Additionally, we will also highlight what technology can be used to help us research and what safety concerns there may be when using the internet to research, with a particular focus on digital footprints and keywords for searching online.</p>