

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Information for Parents of children in Mercury Class**

**Spring term - Term 3**

Welcome everyone to 2024! This term promises to be an exciting one with our geography topic about extreme Earth, with a focus on how our world was created. We will begin the term by creating new year's resolution reflection poems. This will be followed by creating a narrative story inspired by the picture book Journey by Aaron Becker. We also have an exciting opportunity to take part in the first ever forest school at St Peter's this term. More information about this is below. With these ideas in mind, below is a summary of some of the key points for term 3. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.



**Values** - Each term we will focus on one or two of our school values in class and school collective acts of worship. Our focus this term is on the **courage and determination** showed in the story of Joshua. We are going to focus on the verse from the book of Joshua:

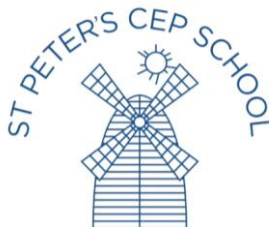
'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9).

**Home learning** - Children in year 4 are set daily homework every night but children do not have to complete their homework for the next day. They will always be told when their homework is due. A homework timetable can be seen below.

For regular practice of spelling, the school uses [EdShed](#) as daily practice of different spelling patterns. Children have access to this website with their login details in their reading records. Weekly word lists will be given to the children on a Friday and they can use Edshed to practice spelling these words with various games and activities. I will also be able to monitor progress on this website / App to check children are complete the tasks set for them. As an additional challenge I will challenge each child every week to see if they can beat my score on edshed with their weekly spellings.

Times table and maths practice will be set each week using the Times Table Rock Stars and My Maths websites. I will set new challenges every Sunday for children to complete during the week. Challenges we be based on content we have already covered in order for children to refresh their memory of concepts we have done before. As with other online material, children have been shown how to access the material and login details have been given in their reading records.





Each weekend there will be a set weekend challenge focusing on either History or Science work. It is advantageous to complete this work as I often use their learning from this to inform lessons the following week.

To assist with daily home learning I have created this suggested timetable. While it is not essential to complete home learning in this order it does help to create a daily routine. If your child is finding home learning challenging please do come and speak to me so I can discuss the home learning with your child to encourage learning at home. Home learning should be fun and engaging, not a chore so do speak to me if you need any support.

|                         |  |                   |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Daily</b>            | Reading (please encourage your child to read daily and ideally to an adult, who can sign the reading record that comes into school each day) |                   |
| <b>Regular practice</b> | Times tables   | Test every Monday |
|                         | Spellings  | Test every Friday |
|                         |  |                   |
| <b>Monday</b>           | Spellings – Spend 15 minutes on <i>Spelling Frame</i> to practise this week's spellings  |                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>          | Maths – Complete task(s) of a Maths fluency sheet.   |                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b>        | Spellings – Spend 15 minutes on <i>Spelling Frame</i> to practise this week's spellings  |                   |
| <b>Thursday</b>         | <i>Times Tables Rockstars</i> – spend 15 minutes practising our table of the week  |                   |
| <b>Friday</b>           | Topic/ Science Weekend Challenge   |                   |

**Reading** – As it was in the Autumn term, children will have a book from school that they bring home each night. These books have been chosen by the children and are set at a level of their ability based on their Accelerated Reader scores we do in school. It's really important this book comes in each day as we have lots of opportunities for reading in school as well. Please can you support them with remembering to bring it in each day in their book bags.

**PE** – Our **PE days** for term 3 are now **Wednesdays and Fridays** so please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit on these days. **Please note that PE days change each term so please check the school newsletter or the school website for updated details.** Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days and will be in the kit the whole day. As we are in the Spring, please provide your child with jogging bottoms and a waterproof jacket.

On Friday's we will be going swimming at Crowborough Leisure Centre. Children should be in PE kits on Friday and then have a separate swimming bag with a swimsuit, goggles, swimming cap and towel.

**Forest School** – From January, Mercury class will be taking part in Forest School as part of their P.E. curriculum. The sessions will be led by Mrs Langton (Mouse) and Mrs Page (Badger). The children have been split into two groups either Owls or Eagles. Please see the timetable below so you know when your child will take part.





On the days that children have Forest school, they should come to school dressed in home clothes that you do not mind getting muddy or stained, they can wear trainers to come to school. Please note for Forest school your child must be wearing full length trousers and long sleeve tops.

They will also require the following essential outdoor equipment which should be brought to school in a named plastic bag. They will put on their outdoor equipment over their home clothes at the start of the Forest school session which will take place in the afternoon from 1.00pm - 3.00pm. On the forest school days your child will be brought to you at pick up time on the playground directly from Forest School. Please be aware they are likely to be muddy!

Outdoor equipment required (NAMED):

- Thick gardening gloves or rigger gloves - child sized for wearing when using tools.
- Warm woollen gloves
- Warm hat
- Full length waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat
- Wellies



PLEASE NOTE IF CHILDREN ARE NOT APPROPRIATELY DRESSED, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN FOREST SCHOOL FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS. CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IF THEY ARE WEARING SHORTS.

On the weeks that your child is not doing Forest school they should come in P.E kit as they will have a normal lesson with Mr Knox.

| Wednesday dates for FS    | OWLS                       | EAGLES                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> January   | Owls Forest school session | Normal PE                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> January  | Normal PE                  | Eagles Forest school session |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> January  | Owls Forest school session | Normal PE                    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> January  | Normal PE                  | Eagles Forest school session |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> January  | Owls Forest school session | Normal PE                    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> February  | Normal PE                  | Eagles Forest school session |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> February | Owls Forest school session | Normal PE                    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> February | Normal PE                  | Eagles Forest school session |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> March     | Owls Forest school session | Normal PE                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March    | Normal PE                  | Eagles Forest school session |

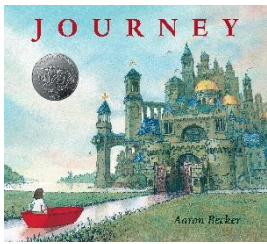
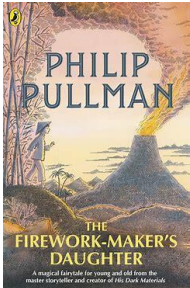
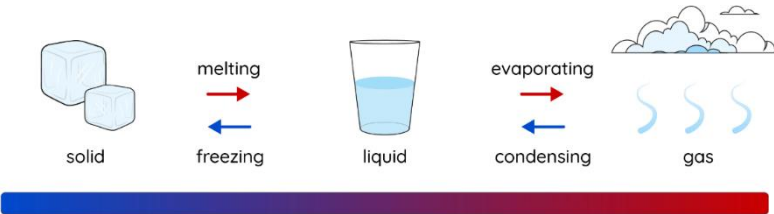
I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework, please don't hesitate to contact me or encourage your child to speak to me in class. If you would like to speak to me, remember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

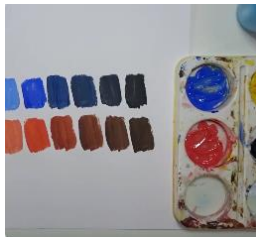
Kindest regards,

Mr Knox



### Mercury Class Curriculum Information for Term 3

| Subject | To be covered   |
|---------|---|
| English | <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>In English this term we will focus on both fictional and non-fiction pieces of text, featuring aspects of our geography topic of <b>Extreme Earth: Volcanoes</b>. The term will begin with a look at setting new year resolutions and writing poems about what we hope to achieve this year. We will then dive into our geography topic by a writing a narrative based on the journey story by Aaron Becker.</p> <p>For VIPERS reading this term we will begin our new class reader of "The Firework Maker's Daughter" by Philip Pullman.</p> </div>  </div> |
| Maths   | <p>In Maths, this term we will be focusing on continuing our work of <b>multiplication and division</b>, followed by a short unit on <b>length and perimeter</b>.</p> <p>For our multiplication and division unit we will focus on more complex calculations such as multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit and 2-digit by 2-digit. We will the look at our second measurement unit of length and perimeter, using our understanding of shape, adding and subtracting to work out the total amount of sides, etc...</p> <p>It would be helpful that this term you focus with your child on becoming more secure with all the times table facts, playing multiplication / division games and helping them to improve their mental recall of their multiplication facts.</p>  |
| Science | <p>This term in Science the children will be learning about Materials, with a focus on states of matter. By investigating the properties of solids, liquids and gases, children learn about the different states of matter. They explore changes of state using relatable examples and use this to explain changes to water through the water cycle. Pupils investigate the relationship between temperature and rate of evaporation while broadening their experience of working scientifically.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>   |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Geography      | <p>For our second unit of <i>Geography</i> for year 4 we will be focusing on extreme earth, asking the question "Why do people live near volcanoes?" Children learn that the Earth is constructed in layers, and the crust is divided into tectonic plates. They study the formation and distribution of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and use Mount Etna to identify how human interaction shapes a volcanic landscape.</p>  |
| Art and Design | <p>The term for Art and Design Mercury class will be focusing on Painting and Mixed Media, with a particular exploration of creating light and dark affects. Developing skills in colour mixing, focusing on using tints and shades to create a 3D effect. Experimenting with composition and applying painting techniques to a personal still life piece.</p>    |
| RE             | <p>This term we focus on learning on the concept of <b>Gospel</b>, with our big question being <b>What kind of a world did Jesus want?</b> To explore this big question the children will begin by identifying what a gospel is, which tells the story of the life and teaching of Jesus. Children will then make clear links between the calling of the first disciples and how Christians today try to follow Jesus and be 'fishers of people'. Throughout this unit, children will offer suggestions about what Jesus' actions towards the leper might mean for a Christian, as well as make simple links between Bible texts and the concept of 'Gospel' (good news). Finally, the children will be able to give examples of how Christians try to show love to all, including how members of the clergy follow Jesus' teaching. Overall, by studying this unit children will be able to make links between the Bible stories studied and the importance of love, and life in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly.</p> |
| Computing      | <p>In term 3, we will begin the first of two programming units. For our first programming unit, children will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. Children will use Logo, a text-based programming language.</p>   |
| PSHE           | <p>For this term in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) we are learning about <b>keeping ourselves safe</b>. We begin our learning on this topic by looking at understanding the difference between dangers, hazards and risks, and how we can manage these. Next we will look at what a dare is and how they can be managed. We will then look at how we are influenced to take risks both positively and negatively. We will finish the unit by looking at E-safety of posting photos online and also how it is important to look at the labels of medicines to keep ourselves safe from harm.</p>  |



|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Spanish | This term we will study, "Las verduras" (Vegetables). In this unit pupils will learn 10 common vegetables in their plural form with their definite articles in Spanish. They will learn the basic transactional language required take part in a role-play activity based on buying different quantities of vegetables from a market stall.   |
| Music   | For Music this term Mercury class will be learning about changes to pitch, tempo and dynamics within the theme of rivers. Learning to listen to changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics and relate it to something tangible and familiar. Linking to their geography learning, the pupils represent different stages of the river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance.  |
| PE      | <p>For PE this term the two sports we will be focusing on will be <b>Hockey, Forest School</b> and <b>Swimming</b>. Hockey will be taught on a Wednesday, with a focus on game play, teamwork and sport specific application such as shooting and defending. Also on Wednesday, half the class each week will take part in Forest School session in the afternoon. As shown above there is a list of dates of when each group is taking part in their session and what outdoor equipment is needed.</p> <p>On Friday's we will be going <b>swimming</b>, learning different skills based on our swimming ability to develop our water confidence and skill in swimming different strokes.</p> |