



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

**Spring term - Term 4**

If you can believe it, we will officially have our 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary this term in our school site in Hawkenbury! While this term is going to be a busy one, there is so much to look forward to! First, we will be exploring our second history topic this year, investigating the changes in children's lives through time. Connecting to this, Mercury class will produce and perform our class assembly later this term on our history topic. Lastly, we will continue our swimming lessons this term, of which many of the kids enjoy their lessons on a Friday morning. Oh and to top it all off, we have our Easter service at St Peter's Church at the end of the term. Such an exciting term with loads of experiences for the children to learn from. Remember as always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

In addition, the start and end times of the school day have changed for this term and going forwards. Registration is now from between 08.30 and 08.40, and the end of the day for Mercury class is at 15.20. Dismissal is still from the far stairwell door, near the hall.

**Values** – This term we have begun our new set of values and bible verses that underpin our school values. Our Motto for the school is now: '**Learning to light the Way**'

Built upon courage, compassion and respect, excellence in learning and ambition in teaching, our school lights the way to a world of possibilities.

With relationships at our core, we nurture every individual. Each unique contribution is valued. All flourish, making a difference as global citizens and as a beacon in our local community.

**Our school vision is underpinned by Matthew 5: 14-16**

'A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

This term our value is



**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.



*'Learning to Light the Way'*



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 will 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 4 are **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** – Continuing this term, 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!

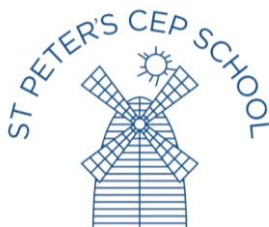
Outdoor equipment required (NAMED):

- 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.

<b>Wednesday dates for FS</b>	<b>OWLS</b>	<b>EAGLES</b>
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

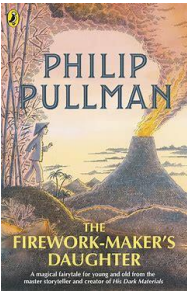

I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework, please don't hesitate to contact me or encourage your child to speak to me in class. If you would like to speak to me, remember 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 4

Subject	To be covered
English	<p>In English this term we will focus on both fictional and non-fiction pieces of text, featuring aspects of our history topic of <b>children through the ages</b>. We will begin the term by finishing our newspaper reports on volcanic eruptions in Iceland. To then move into a non-chronological report about the life of children through the ages. After which we will then focus on our narrative unit using the book Iron Man</p> <p>For VIPERS reading this term we will continue our class reader of "The Firework Maker's Daughter" by Philip Pullman.</p> 
Maths	<p>For Maths this term we will begin by focusing on <b>fractions and decimals</b>. We will look at what fractions are, which fractions are equivalent, how we can order them and adding or subtracting fractions. For decimals we will look at tenths and hundredths both as fractions and decimals and understand how decimals is related to dividing by 10 or 100. Throughout the term we will also continue to practice our arithmetic fluency and reasoning by review questions on a daily basis to keep up the skills we have already learnt.</p> <p>Some activities that children can complete to help them achieve this term are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognising where fractions are used in real life (sharing of pizza, cake, etc..) and working out which would be more or less than another amount.</li> </ul> <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 energy with a focus on sound and vibrations. By exploring different ways of producing sounds, children learn about the relationship between vibrations and what they hear. Pupils explore how pitch and volume can be altered and how sound can be insulated using different materials.</p>
History	<p>For our second unit of History the children will be investigating the changes in children's lives through time. Children learn how children's spare time, health and work have changed. They explore the most crucial change - work - in more detail, learning about a day in the life of a working child and the significance of Lord Shaftesbury and his impact.</p> 



Design and Technology	<p>The term for Design and Technology, Mercury class will design and make a car with a working slingshot mechanism and house the mechanism using a range of nets. Working independently, children will produce an accurate, functioning car chassis, design a shape that is suitable for the project, and attempt to reduce air resistance through the design of the shape. Assembly the car independently and conduct trials accurately to then draw conclusions and improvements from the results.</p> 
RE	<p>This term for RE our key concept is on Salvation with our big question on <b>Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?</b> For this unit, children will be able to order Creation and Fall, Incarnation, Gospel and Salvation within a timeline of the Bible's 'big story'. Offer suggestions for what the texts about the entry into Jerusalem, and the death and resurrection of Jesus might mean. Give examples of what the texts studied mean to some Christians. Make simple links between the Gospel texts and how Christians mark the Easter events in their church communities. Describe how Christians show their beliefs about Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday in worship. Make links between some of the stories and teachings in the Bible and life in the world today, expressing some ideas of their own clearly.</p>
Computing	<p>For this term we are going to focus on <b>Data logging</b>. The children will consider how and why data is collected over time. Learners will consider the senses that humans use to experience the environment and how computers can use special input devices called sensors to monitor the environment. Learners will collect data as well as access data captured over long periods of time. They will look at data points, data sets, and logging intervals. Learners will spend time using a computer to review and analyse data. Towards the end of the unit, learners will pose questions and then use data loggers to automatically collect the data needed to answer those questions.</p>
PSHE	<p>This term our focus will be about <b>our Rights and Respect</b>. We will begin the term by looking at who helps us stay healthy and safe. We will then discuss different rights that children have as human beings and how we can make a difference to the world. We will also look at and understand the role of a bystander in different situations. Finally we will finish the term by looking at what taxes are and how they help to create a fair and just society for everyone to benefit from.</p>
Spanish	<p>This term we will study, "me persento" (presenting myself). The unit will, as the title suggests, provide the language the children will need to talk about themselves. This unit will teach children how to: Count to 20, say their name and age, say hello and goodbye and then ask how somebody is feeling and answer how they are feeling, tell you where they live, and tell you their nationality and understand basic gender agreement rules.</p>

Music	<p>For Music this term Mercury class will continue to learn about changes to pitch, tempo and dynamics within the theme of rivers. Children will continue to practice and perfect their vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance. After this we will begin our next unit of study in music where we will adapt and transpose motifs. Drawing upon our understanding of repeating patterns in music, pupils are introduced to the concept of motifs.</p>
PE	<p>For PE this term the two sports we will be focusing on this term will be <b>Badminton and Swimming</b>. Badminton will be taught on a Wednesday, where the children will focus learning the skill of ball and racket control, accuracy and the rules of the game for gameplay. 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>