



Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday 22nd April 2024

Information for Parents in Mercury Class

Summer 2024 - Term 5

I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break with some much-needed sunshine and warm weather! This term we are beginning our new geography topic of study, looking at **Mountains and why people might like to live there?** The term begins by recapping our learning about how the earth is formed and how mountains are created from the tectonic plates. We also have our class trip this term to the annual Living the Land expo at the Kent County Showground on May. This excursion only takes place once a year and is only open to selected schools so we are very lucky and fortunate to go on this trip. I am really looking forward to seeing how the children enjoy this class trip and how it will relate to term one's geography subject of **where our food comes from**. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me anything related to this term.

Values - This term we are continuing to explore our new set of values and bible verse 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



In addition, we will be looking at the **British Value of Tolerance** of different cultures and religions. To develop this, the children will be exploring key religious festivals that occur in this coming term such as Eid (the end of Ramadan celebrated between 9-12th April) and Passover (22nd-30th April).

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.



'Learning to Light the Way'



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 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.

Daily	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)	
Regular practice	Times tables	Test every Monday
	Spellings	Test every Friday
Monday	Spellings - Spend 15 minutes on <i>Spelling Frame</i> to practise this week's spellings	
Tuesday	Maths - Complete task(s) of a Maths fluency sheet.	
Wednesday	Spellings - Spend 15 minutes on <i>Spelling Frame</i> to practise this week's spellings	
Thursday	Times Tables Rockstars - spend 15 minutes practising our table of the week	
Friday	Topic/ Science Weekend Challenge	

Reading – As it was in the Spring 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 5 are **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays** 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.

Class trip to Living the Land Exhibition - Finally, the long wait is over and I can reveal that Mercury class are going on a class trip to the Living Land show at the Kent Showground in Detling. The Living land is a one-day event aimed at educating children in farming, agriculture, horticulture and the countryside. Children will have the opportunity to visit with different farm animals, touch and taste different local produce, enjoy farm machinery demonstrations, and even see some dancing sheep! Further details about the event can be found on their website at: www.kcas.org.uk/living-land/

We will be attending this event on **Thursday 2nd May** and going by coach to the Kent showground in Detling.

Please can all children arrive at school no later than 8am, ready to depart by 8.15am. We will return to the school by 3.15pm.

Once again thank you to the PTA for subsidising this class trip making the **cost per child of: £14.00**

Please make all payments in full by Wednesday 24th April. Payment is made through your child's Arbor account.

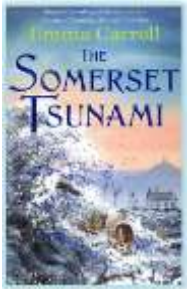

I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework, please don't hesitate to contact me or encourage your child to speak to me in class. If you would like to speak to me, remember 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 5

Subject	To be covered
English	<p>In English this term we will focus on both fictional and non-fiction pieces of text. To begin we will finish our narrative unit of suspense writing. After which we will have a unit on poetry looking at the poem 'Still I rise' by Maya Angelou. Using this poem as a base, children will create their own version. To end the term, we will look at a non-fiction unit of writing, writing about our class trip to the Living the Land event.</p> <p>For VIPERS reading this term we will be reading a new text called "The Somerset Tsunami" by Emma Carroll.</p> 
Maths	<p>For Maths this term we will begin by focusing on decimals. We will look at what decimals are, specifically tenths and hundredths both as fractions and decimals and understand how decimals is related to dividing by 10 or 100. We will look our next unit of measure looking at money and then time to finish the term. As extra practice it would be great if you could practice the following at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working out tenths and hundreds using different objects. For example, timing activities using stop watches to show tenths and hundreds of seconds.
Science	<p>This term in Science the children will be learning about how to classify animals and exploring habitats. Children explore different ways living things can be grouped and make classification keys. They study ways that habitats may change over time and understand that humans can have both positive and negative effects on their surroundings.</p>
Geography	<p>For our third and final unit in Geography for year 4 we will look further into Mountains and try to answer the big question of What is it like to live in the Alps? Considering the climate of mountain ranges and why people choose to visit the Alps; focusing on Innsbruck and looking at the human and physical features that attract tourists; investigating tourism in the local area and mapping recreational land use; presenting findings to compare the Alps to the children's own locality.</p> 
Art and Design	<p>For this term we will be looking at Craft and design. Using the flora and fauna of tropical rainforests as a starting point, children develop drawings through experimentation and textile-based techniques to design a repeating pattern suitable for fabric.</p>

RE	<p>This term for RE we will study the world religion of Hinduism. We will begin by asking ourselves this key question of <u>What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?</u> We will look to explore this question by diving deeper into its meaning through Describing puja and how it shows Hindu faith. We will also try to make connections with some Hindu beliefs and teachings about aims and duties in life. Describe some ways in which Hindus express their faith through puja, aarti and bhajans. Suggest at least two reasons why being a Hindu is a good thing in Britain today, and two reasons why it might be hard sometimes. Discuss links between the actions of Hindus in helping others and ways in which people of other faiths and beliefs, including pupils themselves, help others. Describe how the life of Gandhi shows Hindu beliefs in action.</p>
Computing	<p>For this term we are going to focus on Photo editing. The children will develop their understanding of how digital images can be changed and edited, and how they can then be resaved and re-used. They will consider the impact that editing images can have and evaluate the effectiveness of their choices.</p>
PSHE	<p>This term for PSHE we will be focusing on Being My Best. We will begin the term by learning about basic first aid, how to help someone in different situations and knowing what to do if something happens. We will then focus on what makes different people unique and how this difference should be celebrated. We will then look at choices and how we have the power to make them or some are chosen for us. We will then finish the term looking at ways at helping our school community through the seven R's (Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Rot, Recycle, Repair and re-think).</p>
Spanish	<p>This term we will finish our study of, "me persento" (presenting myself). After this we will begin our new unit of 'La clase' (The classroom). In this unit the children will be introduced to twelve new nouns with their indefinite articles/determiners for key classroom objects. They will also start to integrate previously learnt language such as the high frequency first person irregular verb tengo (I have) that they will have encountered in at least the 'Presenting Myself' unit, alongside newly acquired language such as en mi estuche (in my pencil case) or en mi mochila (in my rucksack). Together with the negative structure no tengo (I do not have) and an awareness of the possessive adjective in Spanish, pupils will be able to describe what they have/do not have in their pencil cases and rucksacks by the end of the unit.</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 will be Rounders and Tri-golf. Rounders will be taught on a Tuesday with Mr Sharp, where the children will focus on the skillset of game play, including: striking, fielding, bowling, and throwing/catching. On Wednesday's we will be learning a new sport of tri-golf. Tri-golf is a modified version of the traditional game of golf that is specifically designed for children. The main goal of tri-golf is to teach children the basic skills and techniques of the game, such as grip, stance, and swing. It also helps to develop children's hand-eye coordination, balance, and concentration. The modified equipment and course layout are designed to be more accessible for children, and the emphasis is on having fun and learning the game in a safe and supportive environment.</p> 
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