

January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to back to school! I hope you were able to enjoy a safe and restful break over the holidays. I am looking forward to supporting the children through, what is bound to be, another 'interesting' term. We have lots of fun planned but our priority, as ever, keeping everyone safe is our priority.



Our topic this term is 'Blackout'. It is an historical topic, based on World War Two, with strong scientific themes running throughout. The children will learn about important aspects of our national and local history during this historical period, such as The Blitz, evacuation and rationing. With a thoughtful and compassionate approach, we will learn about the countries involved in the war and the impact of the Holocaust. We will look at the personal and social aspects of the impact of WW2, such as: helping others, resilience and differences in beliefs, and consider how we experience these aspects in our day-to-day lives now.

In English, we are starting our topic with biography writing, based on the lives of key historical figures from our topic. We will develop our narrative writing, through the use of some key texts, including 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and 'Rose Blanche'. We will use inspiration from traditional wartime poems to create our own poetic verse and we will learn about the importance of healthy argument in our own in class debate.

In Maths, we will continue to follow the National Mathematics Framework, building on understanding of written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, so that the children can solve problems using larger numbers and multiple steps. We will be developing our reasoning in mathematics this term, proving our answers and applying knowledge in different contexts. We will continue to revise and cement our times tables, and carrying out regular speed tests, as having secure knowledge and rapid fluency is so helpful in all mathematical application.

This term the children will be creating a variety art, with a focus on 'light' in art. We will explore the significance of light in air raids and create our own representations of this. We will also be using the wartime flower, the poppy as inspiration for our artwork too.

Our Design and Technology this term will hopefully be able to focus on key life skill such as cooking, exploring war time ration recipes and learning to use what is locally and seasonally grown, and needle work, where children will have opportunities to design and make their own hand sewn WW2 creation. Hoping we are able to back in school for these activities to happen!

In Science, we will be looking at Electricity and Light. We will explore different types of circuits and the use of different voltages. The children will be applying their knowledge of electricity and light to explore Morse code and the use periscopes during WW2.

In Music this term, the children will be learning WW2 songs that were sung to rally troops and lift spirits during a difficult time. They will be developing their composition skills and knowledge of musical notation.

In computing lessons, the children will be working on coding and exploring other media. This work will be supported with an in school workshop from the CLC.

In Religious Education, we will be exploring the Bible, as part of our work on Christianity. We will be finding out the key messages, why it is important to people and how different people use the Bible in their lives. We will also learn about Paschal and its significance to Christians.

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In P.E. children will continue to develop athletics skills in games sessions with Coach Keeley when in school and we will also be having fun with yoga and Joe Wicks whilst at home.

Year 6 will have great support from other adults this term too. Sue and Shae will continue working with the class.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Oona Matheson