

Blue Class (Year 3) News

Autumn 2018

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone enjoyed a fun filled summer. We have an exciting curriculum to keep us busy this term. Our topic for this term is 'Scrumdiddlyumptious'. This topic will find us looking in detail about chocolate – we will be looking at Mayan Civilisations, rainforests, plants and animals of the rainforests as well as developing and making our very own chocolates. It is certainly going to be an exciting and tasty journey of discovery, and we will be looking for the answers to many questions - Who were the Mayans? What did they believe in? Why was chocolate so important to them? Where does chocolate come from? What is a rainforest? Where do you find rainforests? What plants exist in the rainforest? What do plants need to survive? How are chocolate bars made? Which is the most popular chocolate? How do you make your own chocolates? Plenty to investigate!

Keeping active and healthy

Our P.E. lessons will be on a Wednesday and Thursday but children should have their full P.E. kit in every day as we will also be ensuring we complete our daily mile as part of encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle. As part of this we also ask that the children have a named water bottle in school that is filled with water to help keep them hydrated throughout the day. A healthy snack e.g. fruit for morning break is also recommended as the children do not have lunch until 12.30.

Home learning

In the past home learning has been a creative challenge which could be picked from a variety of activities. We will still provide these suggestions however they will be as an added extra if you have time and a rainy Sunday afternoon to fill.

For home learning we would like to focus on the basics and this will allow the children to build routine into their week and hopefully give quality family time for the weekends.

Reading

I expect every child to read at home out loud for at least 3 x 10 minute sessions a week, more if you can. I will set a reading challenge for the children - reading for 100 hours by the end of the year - they will receive certificates for 10 hours, 25 hours, 50 hours and 100 hours. Some of this time will be reading in class, reading at home to themselves or reading to parents and family members.

Times Tables

We are using a trial version of Times Tables Rock Stars which will hopefully get children excited about learning their times tables. It is web based and you can also get an app which will be free with our subscription. We are trialling it until October so your feedback would be great. It is a collection of games and challenges to help them remember their times tables. We will also be learning tables with pen and paper, children will need to practise at home and every week they will have a timed challenge to complete (they are trying to improve their own time, not competing with others).

Spelling

Finally, spellings need to be part of their weekly routine for home learning. This is not to be considered a test, the last thing we want is for children to become stressed about spellings however they do need to learn them. Each child will have their own personal spelling, these will be a mixture of the Y3/4 words which they choose themselves from a list. We will also add extra words from their writing which they are repeatedly spelling incorrectly. They will have only 5 words a week to learn and will test themselves with their friends, when they have them secure they highlight off the sheet and choose some more. We shall learn lots of different ways to practise and the children will soon develop their preferred way of remembering them. I will also be directly teaching spelling rules and they will have time to practise in school too.

Some ideas for rainy Sundays

Use the internet / library to research a particular rainforest. Find out where it is, what the weather is like, what animals/plants live there etc. Make a poster of your findings.	Find or compose a piece of music that reminds you of the rainforest.	Find a leaf and sketch it in detail using a pencil.	Make a 3D model of a Mayan city e.g. Chichen Itza, Tikal.
Design and make a game to help children learn their 3 and 4 times tables.	Design your own chocolate bar.	Go for a walk and discuss your favourite trees and plants.	Carry out a survey of your friends and family to find out the most popular chocolate bar.