

Hawk Owls Spring Half Term 2 Class Newsletter

Teacher: Miss E. Reynard



Hawk Owls have had a brilliant first week back after the half term break. As always, they are all hugely hard working, caring and happy pupils who are a real joy to teach. Well done Hawk Owls!

Whole School Christian Value of the half term: **Forgiveness**
'Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others' (Matthew 6:12).

Whole School Theme – Explorers

The Whole School Theme for this term continues to be 'Explorers'. Our Geography Topic for this term, relating to the whole school theme, is UK coasts, in which we will be kicking off with learning about the water cycle before exploring erosion and the effect erosion is having on communities and their environment.

In English, we will be reading a heart-warming short story *The Baker by the Sea* which links in nicely with our Geography unit. We will be writing a persuasive tourist brochure based on this story.

In Guided Reading we are continuing to read *Why the Whales Came* by Michael Morpurgo and will then explore some poetry upon completion of this.

In Maths, we have now completed our second Multiplication and Division unit and are moving on to a week of length and perimeter and then fractions. We will continue doing daily times table practise as well to prepare for the end of Year 4 multiplication check (please see below for more information) – **the progress the children have made in this has been wonderful, thank you for your continued encouragement and supportive practise at home for this.**

In Science, we have begun our exciting 'Electricity' unit. Here, the children will learn to create a circuit, use switches, explore conductors and insulators, use buzzers and learn about famous scientist Thomas Edison.

In Art, we will be exploring Claude Monet and his watercolour techniques which links to the water theme that runs throughout this half term. In DT, the whole school will be contributing towards an end of term food festival and we will be baking a treat which relates to our English book *The Baker by the Sea!*

Mr Cinar is leading year 4's PE this year and we will continue to have a 'mini' PE lesson every Tuesday where we play a variety of team games as well as building our general fitness.

Our RE will be exploring the question 'Why do Christians remember the events of Holy Week every year?' and our Collective Worship value is forgiveness.

In Computing, the children will be doing audio production. They will identify input and output devices required to work with sound digitally as well as discuss the ownership of digital audio and the copyright implications of duplicating the work of others. They will also use Audacity to produce a podcast, which will include editing their work, adding multiple tracks, and opening and saving the audio files.

Finally, in Music, Year 4 will be completing a unit based on Rivers. They will be learning to listen to changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics and will represent different stages of the river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, with a final group performance.

Accelerated Reader

The children should continue to read regularly and widely to aid their comprehension skills, but also their writing, grammar and spelling. They will take a STAR reading quiz at the beginning of each half term to revise their coloured book band and have the opportunity to take AR quizzes on Wednesday mornings. **The class**

iPad, when available, can also be used for children to take one off AR quizzes at other times during the week if necessary. All children also have regular opportunities for private reading throughout the week.

Below is a list of some ways in which you can support your child in their reading.

- ✓ Give your child access to plenty of texts on many different topics and by a wide range of authors who write in different styles, e.g. Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo to Anthony Horowitz.
- ✓ Encourage discussion with your child when pronouncing new words if their reasonable attempt does not sound correct.
- ✓ Broaden the vocabulary you use when speaking to your child and be prepared to clarify the meaning of a wider range of words, modelling them within sentences.
- ✓ Encourage your child to read silently to themselves but check their understanding of what they have read after doing so.
- ✓ Read difficult texts to your child and allow them the chance to listen and ask questions.

Maths

Length and Perimeter

Measure in kilometres and metres
Equivalent lengths (kilometres and metres)
Perimeter on a grid
Perimeter of a rectangle
Perimeter of rectilinear shapes
Find missing lengths in rectilinear shapes
Calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes
Perimeter of regular polygons and polygons

Fractions

Understand the whole
Count beyond 1
Partition a mixed number
Number lines with mixed numbers
Compare and order mixed numbers
Understand improper fractions
Convert mixed numbers to improper fractions
Convert improper fractions to mixed numbers
Equivalent fractions on a number line
Equivalent fraction families
Add two or more fractions
Add fractions and mixed numbers
Subtract two fractions
Subtract from whole amounts
Subtract from mixed numbers

English

Writing

Book focus: *'The Baker by the Sea'* by Paula White
Writing focus: Persuasive writing - Tourism brochure

Guided Reading

Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo

Grammar and Punctuation:

Pronouns

Possessive apostrophes (Recap)

Noun phrases (Recap)

Spellings

Recap Spring 1 spellings

Prefixes 'anti-' and 'inter-'

Endings spelt '-cian', '-sion', '-tion' and '-ssion'

Personal and Statutory Spellings

Routines/responsibilities

- Please can you ensure that children have a **suitable pair of black pumps** to wear as indoor shoes and that **water bottles** are labelled, brought into school daily and kept on children's desks.
- Please can you ensure that children come to school in full **PE kit** on Wednesdays. Children do not need to be in their PE kit for Tuesday's 'mini PE' session.

Homework

- Your child has a homework journal and termly homework sheet with recommendations on must do daily activities (such as spellings, times tables, daily reading) and optional activities related to our topic. The children will have the opportunity to share a piece of their topic based homework with their peers in the final week of each half term. We look forward to seeing your creations! Please note that homework will be celebrated in class, and will not be marked.
- Please can children practise reading on a daily basis and ensure that they are listened to at least once weekly.
- Spellings relating to the focus of that week or personal spellings will also be sent home on a Friday for a spelling quiz the following Friday morning.
- Your child also has a 'Maths passport' glued into their homework books which focus on mental maths skills. Further information will be sent out about this in due course.

Times Tables and Multiplication Check

- During the summer term, your child will complete a statutory multiplication check to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12
- In preparation for this, children will be doing daily times table practise at school.
- In order to complement this, we ask that pupils continue to practise their times tables at home.
- This can be done through Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) of which your child has their log in details stapled in their homework journal and regular 'challenges' will be set.

- Hit the Button is also another free, fun online game to practise times tables:
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- Maths Frame also has an activity that exactly mirrors the statutory multiplication check:
<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

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