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**Owls Class Newsletter – Spring 2 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a well-deserved rest over the half term and spent some quality time together with your families.

**Curriculum – Identity**

We began with our WOW CSI day, where children stepped into the role of forensic detectives to solve the mystery of the crime. It was a fantastic day where we saw our vision, ‘Learning, Transforming, Growing’, in action. You will see photos of the day uploaded to twitter.

In English, as writers, we will explore the traditional tale The Three Little Pigs with a twist. We will explore journalistic writing using the short video ‘The Three Little Pigs’ <https://www.literacyshed.com/3littlepigs.html> to write and report the events detailed in the video. We will explore how different viewpoints are portrayed in journalistic writing, with a specific focus on the term ’bias’. Our main outcome will be writing a journalistic recount of the events in the form of a newspaper report.

We will apply our scientific knowledge and skills of the heart and healthy living to write our own non-fiction informative leaflet, to guide our readers to live a healthier lifestyle. We will explore the features of a leaflet and discuss their purpose for its readers before using them in our own published leaflet.

As scientists we will learn about the human heart and the circulatory system, including specific blood groups, transportation of blood and the structure of the heart. We will learn about the symbiotic relationship between the heart and the lungs, and its importance to have a healthy circulatory system. We will undertake an investigation to understand the impact of exercise on the pulse rate. We will learn why repeat readings are important. The children will also be exploring the components of a healthy lifestyle including diet, sleep and exercise and suggest ways for others to have a healthy lifestyle.

In RE, we will be answering the question ‘Was the death of Jesus a worthwhile sacrifice?’ We will discuss what some Christians believe about the death of Jesus and what impact the death has on Christians today. We will discuss what the bible says about Jesus’ death and the choice that He made. We will explore the terms ‘salvation’ and ‘atonement’ and discuss how Easter is celebrated by Christians because of their beliefs.

In computing, we will explore how data is transferred over the internet. We will begin our learning with a focus on addressing, before exploring the make-up and structure of data packets. We will then look at how the internet facilitates online communication and collaboration by completing shared online projects and evaluate the different methods used.

We do have some wonderful home learning tools that your children can explore;

TT Rockstars <https://ttrockstars.com/>

Purple Mash [www.purplemash.com](http://www.purplemash.com)

Each child has an individual account and their own password. Please keep the passwords safe and if you do not remember them then ask your class teacher.

**Class rewards**

The children have already been working hard to earn house points and Owls class have voted to choose their marble rewards;

We have already achieved 300 marbles reward and continue to work towards other rewards.

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| 150 marbles | 300 marbles | 450 marbles | 600 marbles |
| 15 minutes playtime  | Sports afternoon | Pizza and film afternoon | Non-school uniform day |

**Reading books**

Children will have a reading book which they have selected themselves. We recommend that the children regularly read at home as it is a great way to cover a wide range of authors and genres. It will also allow them to understand and use a wide range of vocabulary. They should aim to read on at least four occasions in any one week for a minimum of 10-15 minutes at a time.

We ask for you to listen to your child read as much as possible during the week to support their reading progression.

Please encourage your child to record their reading activity in their reading record.

**Homework**

Our Teaching and Learning policy states;

At St Mary’s we recognise that children learn best when school and family work in partnership to promote a child’s learning and progress. This partnership includes encouraging children to practise, develop and enrich the learning that takes place in school, outside of school. Homework should not be something which leads to arguments, tears or tantrums for either children or parents.

Our homework enables all pupils to make sure they have chance to practice and recall things like spellings and tables, to read regularly and also complete a weekly piece of work for Maths, English and their project.

Our homework books will be sent home every Thursday and should be returned to school on the following Tuesday. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

**This term, homework will consist of weekly spellings and targeted revision to support preparation for SATs tests 9th-12th May 2023.**

**PE Kit**

All children should have indoor and outdoor kit e.g. shorts, House coloured t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor sessions. **PE kits should be brought into school every Monday and taken home on a Friday to be washed for the following week.**

Please note pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks has passed**.) Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings**. If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

We will be taking part in PE on Friday. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school for these days.

**Reminders**

* **Water Bottles – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. To improve the oral health of children, only water is permitted in class. If your child brings in a bottle filled with something other than water we will provide them with a cup so that they can access water during the day.**
* Snacks – Children may bring in a **healthy snack** for mid-morning break. Suitable choices **include fruit, cheese, yogurt and vegetable sticks**. Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.
* Absence and sickness – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhea.

**Contact**

Should you need to contact me about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address:

r.townson@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as I may be busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases I will endeavour to reply to you within 2 working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office.

I look forward to working with you and helping your children learn, transform and grow.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Townson