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Kestrels Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Curriculum – Eureka!

This term our project is called Eureka! It encompasses English, Science and DT.

In English, as writers we will be working towards writing our own film review based on the film Hugo directed by Marin Scorsese and inspired by the book, The invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick.

We will then write a diary entry from the perspective of Hugo in response to his father's death. We will develop our use of emotive language and word types to show to the reader that Hugo's mind is troubled and unclear.

We will then write our own flashback chapter based on Hugo's experience of living with his uncle after his father's death. As writers, we will develop our skills to include dialogue that conveys character and advances the action in this flashback chapter.

As scientists, we will be developing their knowledge and understanding of forces around them and how they interact with each other on objects.

Children will explore light, understanding that light appears in straight lines and how it interacts with the eye in order to be seen. We will then use the idea of light to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Following this, we will then explore electricity and how electricity controls artificial light sources by creating our own circuit and developing it to alter the brightness of a lamp.

As designers, we will be understanding and exploring electrical and mechanical systems. We will explore how to control simple circuits to create more functional products. We will discuss the current issues with the need to recycle and the environmental issues linked to not recycling. We will create, following a step by step plan, to make our final prototype of our innovative solution to encourage young children to recycle.

Learning, Transforming, Growing.



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

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

Purple Mash 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 Kestrels class have voted to choose their marble rewards;

We are working towards a pyjama day!

150 marbles	300 marbles	450 marbles	600 marbles
15 minutes free time	Movie afternoon and treats	Sports afternoon	Pyjama 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 Friday 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.

For the first 2 weeks of this term, homework will continue to be revision for SATs using our revision books and SATS boosters that the children have been invited to.

We will now also be uploading homework activities via Google Classroom for children to access and complete electronically. Children were fantastic at accessing their learning remotely and electronically during the lockdown; we wish to maintain and develop these skills.

Learning, Transforming, Growing.

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 lessons Wednesday and Thursdays. Please ensure you 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

Learning, Transforming, Growing.