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**Kestrels and Owls Class Newsletter – Summer Term 1 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have enjoyed a lovely Easter break and you have enjoyed meeting up with friends and family outdoors. Later this term, we will have parents evening and we are looking forward to sharing reports with you and setting targets for the rest of the school year. We have an exciting new topic that we would like to inform you about.

**Curriculum - Nihon - which translated means Japan.**

Our project for this term incorporates Geography, Art and Science.

# Japan is host to the delayed 2020 Summer Olympics and is the focus of our curriculum this term. Japan is an Eastern Asian country in the Pacific Ocean. It is filled with high-rise cities, thousands of shrines and temples and mountainous national parks. Japan is a very modern nation, one of the world leaders in technology and has many interesting cultural traditions. As part of our study, the children will be studying the Great Wave by Japanese artist Hokusai. They will be developing a variety of art techniques and composing their own art piece in response to the piece by Hokusai.

# This image is at the heart of a traditional folk tale that we will be reading and using as our inspiration for writing. We will also be writing haiku - a haiku is a specific type of Japanese poem which has 17 syllables divided into three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. Haikus or haiku are typically written on the subject of nature. The word haiku is derived from the Japanese word hokku meaning “starting verse”.

# Our science learning will focus on the heart and the circulatory system. We will also be exploring the components of a healthy lifestyle.

# In PE we will continue our tennis lessons and begin athletics. Athletics will focus on establishing personal bests and challenging ourselves to refine techniques and improve as the term progresses.

Our maths will focus on position and direction, further shape work and measures. Part of the work on measures will focus on telling the time - children often find this challenging and if you can help your child practise telling the time it would be most appreciated. Start with o’clock, then build on to half past, quarter past and then to and then intervals of five minutes.

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 has their own password. Please keep the password safe and if you do not remember them please ask your class teacher.

**Class rewards**

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

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| 150 marbles | 300 marbles | 450 marbles | 600 marbles |
| 15 minutes extra play | Class games | Free choice outdoor activities | Movie with treats |

**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.

**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.

**We were so impressed with the digital literacy during lockdown, we will be enabling the children to complete their homework online. It has been added to Google Classroom and Drive. Children can complete it and then submit online rather than in their red home learning books.**

Alternatively, 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. Homework is a challenging aspect of secondary transition and we suggest the children use the remaining time at St Mary’s to develop good home learning habits.

**PE Kit**

All pupils 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 have 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.

**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. In recent years, we have noticed that some children bring in squash and this attracts ants in the summer term. To avoid this, please help by only sending in water. If you child has a medical need that requires them to have a different drink, please include the details on your parental contact form and we follow this up with a Health Care Plan.**
* 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.

Parentmail is also a convenient way to be kept up to date with school developments.  You can download the app on most android and iPhones.  Please speak to the office if you have any difficulty accessing Parentmail.

**Contact**

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

c.higginbottom@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

r.rose@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

s.digiorno@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

k.agbo@banburystmarysschool.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we may be busy doing classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we 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.

We look forward to working with you this term and helping your children learn, transform and grow.

Kind Regards,

Ciara Higginbottom, Rebecca Rose, Kirsty Agbo and Sarah Di Giorno