



Fen Ditton C. P. School



Kingfishers class: Years 3 and 4

Autumn Term 2017 Link Letter

In the table below you will find information about the topics your child will be covering, in each of the curriculum subjects over the next term.

Subject	Theme
English	Our class text this term is "The hodgheg" by Dick King-Smith. All our English lessons, wherever possible, will be based on this text. Children will learn start by learning to write animal stories in the style of this author. Linking to our topic of natural disasters, the children will then research and produce their own fact-files on natural disasters. Each week we will also include handwriting, spelling and grammar investigations. Some children will also be included in short phonics sessions. In addition, some of the English lessons will be devoted to more detailed comprehension activities.
Mathematics	We shall continue to teach maths lessons according to our new 'Teaching for Mastery' approach, which aims to develop children's understanding in all areas of maths, beginning with basic fluency, through to more complex reasoning skills, often in new or unfamiliar contexts and finally to solving puzzles and problems, combining skills in a number of steps. For the first half-term our main theme will be place value, then addition and subtraction. Lessons will continue to include a mix of mental, physical and written maths methods, but will always start with a 'warm up' activity. When the children register each morning, there will be a 'morning maths' task to complete.
Science	We will focus on changes of state: from solid to liquid to gas, and back again. Much of the science work will also be linked to the topic of natural disasters. The children will explore the processes causing tsunamis, tornadoes and volcanoes and learn about the scientific understanding of these natural phenomena.
Topic (History and Geography)	The first part of the autumn term will be devoted to natural disasters – what causes them and how humans have learnt to cope with them and reduce their dangers. The children shall begin the term by making their own working versions of volcanoes and tsunamis using simple materials. After half-term, we will concentrate on a detailed study of a significant historical figure – the author and illustrator Quentin Blake.
Religious Education	R.E. lessons will investigate how Christmas is celebrated all around the world and there will be a special Diwali Day on 19 th October.
Physical Education	P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesdays (outdoor) and Thursdays (indoor). The children will be taught gymnastic skills indoors, and invasion games outdoors. Please make sure that all PE kit is named and includes a white t-shirt, blue or black shorts and trousers together with appropriate footwear for indoors and outdoors. Please ensure earrings are taken out and hair bands are provided to tie long hair back. (If children have one of the school coloured t-shirts to represent their house, they may

	wear them in PE lessons.)
Personal Development	We will investigate the themes of Diversity and Communities. Whole class 'circle time' each week on Wednesdays will help explore and reflect on these themes.
Forest School	A detailed letter will be sent nearer the time, but Kingfishers will be enjoying their Forest School activities in the first half of Spring term after Christmas, on Thursdays.
Art and design (design and technology)	The first half-term will focus on construction, creating working models of natural phenomena such as volcanoes. Later on we shall move on to sketching techniques, including perspective, shading and 3D.
Computing	The theme this term will be 'e-safety'.
Music	The children will learn about Abba with Mrs. Rogan and listen to a variety of 70's Pop songs. We will explore the Pulse and Tempo of each song and play a variety of Rhythm and Pitch games. We will perform Abba songs as a whole class and use a variety of tuned instruments to play along whilst we sing. Towards the end of the term we will learn how to play the Glockenspiel, begin to read notated music and develop our performance skills.
Languages	The children shall be taught French by Ms. Hughes, who will join us from the Perse school.
Homework	This will be set every Friday and will consist of the following: Reading as much as possible over the week; A spellings, grammar or a comprehension activity; A mathematics task, linked to what we have been learning in lessons. Optional: one other piece related to any other subject area. Please ensure homework is returned the following Wednesday.
Assessment	Pupils will be continuously assessed against age related expectations from the new national curriculum.
How to support your child at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read with them daily or as much as possible, which includes your child reading to you and you reading to them. • Help them complete the homework set. • Practise telling the time on analogue and digital clocks. • Quick times tables questions. • Please encourage your child to use the Mathletics website – I have login details, if they have lost them. • Please explore the 'espresso learning website' with your child. It covers all areas of the curriculum, but is particularly good for improving spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. Please use login name: 'student6209' and password 'espresso'.

If you wish to discuss any information included in the table above or you have any further questions, please grab me after school or book an appointment to see me.

Kind Regards,

Mr. McDonnell