



Fen Ditton C. P. School

Nightingales class: Years 3 and 4

### Spring 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.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>English</b>	We shall begin by writing a recount of our Christmas experiences. Children will learn to group their sentences into linked paragraphs and combine facts and feelings in their reminiscences. We will devote several weeks to non-fiction texts using our new 'Talk4Writing' approach. Linking to our topic of Riotous Royals, the children will research and write up biographical accounts of famous kings and queens throughout British History. Each week we will also include handwriting, spelling and grammar investigations.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Maths lessons shall be taught according to our new 'Teaching for Mastery' approach, which aims to develop children's understanding in all areas of math, 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 fractions and time. Lessons will continue to include a mix of mental 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 – we shall concentrate on applying calculation skills in real-life contexts.
<b>Science</b>	We will focus on biology this term, beginning with human and animal skeleton and muscle systems, before turning our attention to circulation, nutrition and digestion. Much of the science work will involve practical activities in the classroom.
<b>Topic (History and Geography)</b>	Having investigated recently some early periods of British history, such as the Stone Age, Iron age the Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods, we turn our attention next to more recent history. The theme of 'Riotous Royals' will provide a platform to investigate different periods of history, looking at what life was like for ordinary people under the reign of different monarchs, such as William the Conqueror or Henry VIII.
<b>Religious Education</b>	R.E. lessons will focus on the core beliefs and practices of Judaism.
<b>Physical Education</b>	P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesdays (with Premier Sport) and Thursdays (with Mr. McDonnell). The children will be taught indoor games and gymnastic skills. 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.)

<b>Personal Development</b>	We will investigate the theme of Working Together, followed by Financial Capability Skills. Whole class 'circle time' sessions each week on Tuesdays will help explore and reflect on these themes. We will continue to promote through assemblies, certificates and class-work the 'Secrets of Success' approach to learning and to encourage a flourishing 'Growth mind-set' attitude in the children.
<b>Secrets to Success</b>	The whole school themes this term will be: imagination and improvement.
<b>Art and design (design and technology)</b>	Taught by Mrs. Nichols, the first half-term will involve recreating Tudor roses, before moving on to recreate a section of the Bayeaux Tapestry.
<b>Computing</b>	Computing will focus this term on learning to code. There will be links to our English and topic work, with the children for example using coding skills to make a Tudor maze or game.
<b>Music</b>	The children will have music lessons with Miss Turner, continuing to learn to play the recorder.
<b>Languages</b>	The children shall be taught French once a fortnight.
<b>Homework</b>	This will be set every <b>Friday</b> and will comprise: 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 OR a practice session for our 'times table Challenge'. <b>Optional:</b> one other piece related to any other subject area. <b>Please ensure homework is returned the following Wednesday.</b>
<b>Assessment</b>	Assessment will include: Reading comprehension and maths exercises every half term. Independent writing pieces at the end of every English unit. Pupils will be assessed against age related expectations from the new national curriculum.
<b>How to support your child at home</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read with them daily or as much as possible, which includes your child reading to you and you reading to them.</li> <li>• Help them complete the homework set</li> <li>• Practise telling the time on analogue and digital clocks</li> <li>• Quick times tables questions</li> <li>• Please encourage your child to use the Mathletics website – I have login details, if they have lost them.</li> <li>• 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'.</li> </ul>

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

Thank you for your support,

Mr. McDonnell