



Fen Ditton C. P. School

Nightingales class: Years 3 and 4

### Autumn Term 2018 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
<b>English</b>	Our class text this term is “Killer Cat” by Anne Fine. All our English lessons, wherever possible, will be based on this text. Children will start by learning to write a biography of Anne Fine and later will produce animal stories in the style of this author. Linking to our topic of the Stone Age, the children will then research and produce their own fact-files on life in the Stone Age. Each week we will also include handwriting, spelling and grammar investigations. In addition, some of the English lessons will be devoted to more detailed vocabulary building activities.
<b>Mathematics</b>	We shall continue to teach maths lessons according to our ‘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.
<b>Science</b>	We will focus on rocks, which links nicely to our topic of Life in the Stone Age. The children will investigate the different types of rock we encounter, and will conduct research into the different uses rock can be put to. They will learn to distinguish man-made from naturally occurring rocks. Science lessons will include a variety of practical activities, research and written work.
<b>Topic (History and Geography)</b>	The autumn term will be devoted to life in the Stone Age. The children shall begin the term by making their own version of Stonehenge from cardboard boxes. The children will learn to consider how we know about people from the past and will investigate the artefacts and monuments ancient peoples left behind.
<b>Physical Education</b>	P.E. lessons will take place on Mondays (outdoor) and Wednesdays (indoor). The children will be taught dance 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.)
<b>R.E. and Personal Development</b>	We will investigate the theme of Friends and Family. Whole class ‘circle time’ each week on Wednesdays will help explore and reflect on these themes. A special Harvest

	Day will also take place for the whole school.
<b>Forest School</b>	The Nightingales will participate in Forest School in the first Spring half-term. A detailed letter will be sent nearer the time.
<b>Art and design (design and technology)</b>	The first half-term will focus on construction, creating models of Stone Age artefacts such as tools and hand-axes. Later on we shall move on to sketching techniques, including perspective, shading and 3D.
<b>Computing</b>	The theme this term will be 'Data Handling', such as making and using spread-sheets.
<b>Music</b>	The Year 3's will learn about 'Abba' 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. Eventually, we will sing and play along to Abba songs with tuned instruments. Year 4's will have weekly instrumental lessons with 'Cambridgeshire Music'.
<b>Languages</b>	The children shall be taught French by Ms. Hughes, who will join us from the Perse school.
<b>Homework</b>	This will be set every <b>Friday</b> 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. <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>	Pupils will be continuously 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>• Please encourage the use of the TT Rock Stars website.</li> </ul>

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

Kind Regards,

Mr. McDonnell