



A NOTE FROM THE MEERKATS

Dear parents,

Firstly a very warm welcome to the Meerkats. We have made a busy start to the year with our Year 6 School Ambassadors already making a positive impact around the school in their new roles. Everyone is working hard and I have been very pleased with the enthusiasm and diligence displayed so far. Well done, Meerkats!

First some exciting news. The Meerkats will be entering the world of online blogging and tweeting this year. I have set up a blogging site which the children will be adding to daily, sharing photos and news about their learning. You are welcome to read and comment on their work. The site is password protected- you will need to visit Primary Blogger and search for our site – meerkats15. All blogs are protected with the password Meerkats15. If you wish to comment there is a reply box underneath the blog – just follow the instructions. All comments have to be approved by me before they appear!

I have also set up a class Twitter account aimed at sharing successes and news. Our account is Meerkats15@Meerkats15. This account is administered by me. I will post photos of children's work rather than their faces. Any mention of names will omit surnames.

I'd like to tell you about the areas of the curriculum we will be studying this term.

Literacy

Literacy in the first half-term will be centered around the classic novel, Goodnight Mister Tom to link with our WW2 focus. As well as listening to the story, we will be writing responses to the text, looking at other points of view and ideas. In the second half term we will study a variety of genre including poetry and a variety of non-fiction. Literacy skills will be assessed and encouraged throughout the curriculum.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will be following the new National Curriculum objectives continuing to build upon individual pupil skills in the four operations, as well as investigating Shape, Data Handling, Measure and Algebra. We will be preparing for the challenges of the new Mathematics SATs test.

Science

Our Science topic this term will be Evolution and Inheritance- a new curriculum topic. The aims are that pupils:

- recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

Our whole school topic is 'Our Pulham, Our Norfolk'. Through our topic work we will study:
History - We will initially be looking at the history of the Pulham Pigs, linked to the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. This will also link to our class novel, Goodnight Mister Tom. In the second half term we will start to look at the history of the Celts in East Anglia.

Geography - We will be undertaking a local study, tracking the growth of the area, using and studying maps.

Art- We will be studying the work of Gustav Klimt, looking in particular at the artwork, Under the Tree of Life, creating artwork in the style of the artist.

DT- We will be using woodworking skills to create frames of airships.

Computing - We will be concentrating on the three aspects of the new curriculum - computer science, information technology and digital literacy.

Music - The children take part in a weekly whole-school singing session. We will also look at music from World War 2.

P.E. will be taught by Mrs Whittleton on a Monday. On Wednesday afternoon children will either have P.E., Forest Schools or Swimming. Year 6's will start Swimming on this Wednesday for 6 weeks. Please make sure P.E. kit is in school for these days.

R.E. – The children will be following an enquiry-based R.E. curriculum.

Organisation and Homework

As in previous years, homework will be set through a learning journal. Children have a double-page spread in order to present their homework in an eye-catching and informative manner. A selection of homework tasks will be given at the start of the term for the children to choose from. If they wish to spend longer on a task – up to 3 weeks- then they are welcome to, though the homework handed in should reflect the extra time spent.

Our spelling groups will resume on Tuesday. Spelling is set every Friday to be tested the following Friday. Spelling activities take place three times a week to help the children learn their words, but it is helpful if support can be given at home as well. Please could you encourage correct spelling in homework wherever possible. In addition each child will be given a times-table target which we expect them to learn thoroughly. Extra skills based maths homework will be given out, where needed.

In Years 5 & 6 we expect children to take responsibility for choosing and changing their own reading books. They have a reading journal to record any reading.

I encourage children to bring in their own stationery in a named pencil case. Handwriting pens should be black or navy blue. This is to help prepare them for the expectations of high school. Pencils and pens are always available to be borrowed if necessary.

Many thanks for your continuing support. Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. Carlyle

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