

# Hedgehog Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and we hope you had a lovely Summer. We are very excited to be teaching your child this year and embark on our learning journey together.

Our Topic for Term 1 & 2 is Maafa. In the Maafa project, your child will learn about Africa today and the ancient kingdoms that thrived on the continent for thousands of years. They will learn about the origins of the transatlantic slave trade in the 15th century and Britain's involvement from the time of Elizabeth I, when John Hawkins became the first British slave trader. Your child will understand the structure of the transatlantic slave trade and the consequences of enslavement for enslaved people. They will also discover how the people of Britain benefited from the money and goods produced by the slave trade. They will learn about the causes and consequences of the abolition of slavery in the 19th century, the worldwide African diaspora and the European colonisation in Africa. They will explore the lives and actions of black people in 20th century Britain. They will understand how the Race Relations Act of 1965 became the first piece of British legislation to tackle racial discrimination and know that the Equality Act 2010 provides people with protection against racism and other forms of discrimination, today. Your child will also explore the lives of black people who have made significant contributions to Britain and will celebrate black culture in Britain today.

During English lessons we will be reading a class novel, 'Freedom'. *Freedom* is written by the award-winning author, Catherine Johnson. The story is based around an enslaved Jamaican boy who is transported to England where he struggles to gain his freedom. We will be completing comprehension activities including grammar, punctuation and spelling. Each week we will have ten words that the children will be focussing on which share the same sound and spelling pattern. We will be writing for a range of purposes including letter writing, persuasion, diary entries, debates and newspaper reports linking to our topic.

In Maths, we will be working on place value skills including numbers up to 10,000. We will be rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 and comparing numbers using  $<$  and  $>$ . We will be then using our skills to add and subtract with numbers of four digits. We will then begin exploring negative numbers and identifying prime, square and cubed numbers. Towards the end of the Autumn term we will move on to multiplying and dividing using a range of formal methods.

For Science this term, we will be learning about the Circulatory System project. Your child will revisit prior learning about the systems in the human body and the seven life processes. They will explore the role of the circulatory system and its main parts, carrying out research to answer their own questions. They will look closely at the structure, functions and features of the heart. They will learn about the components and functions of blood, making a representation of a separated blood sample. They will draw and label diagrams of each type of blood vessel and learn about their structure and function. They will test their resting heart rate using a variety of methods. They will investigate whether having a lower resting heart rate means you can sprint faster. They will recap the four types of exercise and test which raise their heart rate the most. They will recap what they know about healthy eating and the Eatwell guide, exploring foods that fall outside the Eatwell plate and recommended daily amounts of foods. They will research the effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs on the human body. They will complete their learning by carrying out an investigation into heart rate recovery.

In R.E our unit this term will be 'Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary'. Through this we will be exploring Genesis 1, discussing its purpose to Christians and understand why many Christians find science and faith go together. We will then go on to identifying key ideas arising from Genesis 1 and discuss how far these are helpful or inspiring.

The class will be looking at online safety. They will be able to recognise cyberbullying and understand what personal information is. They will learn to keep their details private and understand when and who to ask for help.

In Art lessons we will be investigating tones, tints and shades creating artwork around this. This project teaches children about colour theory by studying the colour wheel and exploring mixing tints, shades and tones. They learn about significant landscape artworks and features of landscapes before using this knowledge to create landscape paintings. We will then move on to our trailblazers unit of work which teaches children about significant black artists and their work, and provides opportunities to analyse and create artwork inspired by them.

This term P.E. will take place on a **Monday** afternoon and **Wednesday** morning. All children need to have a P.E. kit in school including plimsolls or trainers for outside sessions. No earrings are allowed to be worn during P.E. lessons therefore the children need to be able to take them out themselves, or have them taken out in the mornings before school.

Homework will be given on a **Friday** and collected in on a **Thursday** the following week. Every week there is a maths task to be completed which at times may require them to use MyMaths. If your child doesn't have access to a computer at home we can find them time in school for them to catch up without missing out. If you find your child is forgetting to bring homework home, or you have any other concerns, please send a note in their reading record book or come in to see us at the end of school.

Lastly a word about reading! Please encourage your child to read each evening, books that they enjoy. It is so important in this age of technology that we invest in their future to become lifelong readers. Children are rewarded if they bring back their Reading Record book with a brownie point.

Thank you for your support.

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Mrs Harris & Mrs Browning (Teacher Assistants)

