

Bumblebee Class newsletter – terms 5 & 6



Dear families,

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful Easter break – how can it be summer term already?!

Our topic this term is ‘magnificent monarchs’. During this topic we will learn all about the lives and legacies of six key British monarchs: Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II. We will explore a royal palace in greater detail, and investigate what royal residences can tell us about the royals who lived or stayed there. Our art topic this term will be portraiture, looking specifically at royal portraits, and how we might use portraiture techniques to produce a modern, digital self-portrait. In DT we will be learning how to cut and sew to make a miniature photo frame, akin to those used by Tudor royals, then in term 6 we will make a card using moving parts.

In English we will link our reading and writing to our ‘magnificent monarchs’ topic, culminating in writing an information leaflet about a royal palace, and a comic strip about William the Conqueror. We will work on improving our sentences by learning how to use subordinating conjunctions, and how to use apostrophes for possession and contraction. Our class reading books this term will include ‘Queen Victoria’s Bathing Machine’ by Gloria Whelan, Michael Morpurgo’s ‘The Boy Who Would Be King’, Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Happy Prince’, and Eleanor Farjeon’s poetry collection, ‘Kings and Queens’. We will continue with our daily spelling lessons throughout the summer term, and your child will regularly bring home spellings to practise (usually on a Friday).

During our ‘reading practice sessions’, which are held in class on Monday-Wednesday each week, your child’s reading book will continue to be directly linked to the phonemes (sounds) in which they are secure. At each of these sessions we will focus, in small groups, on developing the children’s reading skills – the same book will be read at each of the three sessions, with the focus moving from simple decoding (ie. sounding out and reading the words), to prosody (or expression), to comprehension (ie. understanding). Once we have read each book with the children three times, the book will be sent home (on a Wednesday) so you can hear your child read it at home. Alongside the phonics/decodable book, your child will also bring home a ‘book for sharing’ of their choosing – this book is not for them to read out loud to you (unless they want to, of course!), but is one for you to enjoy together, for example by looking at and discussing the pictures, or reading it aloud to them at bedtime. Both books will need to be returned to school the following Monday, along with your child’s yellow reading record.

In maths we will be focussing on fractions, before moving on to telling the time, then statistics, and finally revision of everything else we have learnt in maths this year. In computing we will learn how to make digital music, and how to code using ScratchJr.

‘Animal survival’ will be our focus in science, including learning about moth life cycles, and researching what is needed in order for animals to survive and thrive.

In music we will explore rhythm, dynamics and tempo through the work of Shostakovich, before composing our own film music. Our topics in PSHE will be ‘relationships’ and ‘changing me,’ including learning the correct names of body parts, and preparing for the move to year 3. In RE we will explore the question, ‘Who is a Muslim?’, looking at the importance of the Prophet Muhammad, life in a mosque, and what happens during Eid.

The children have two PE lessons a week, on Monday and Friday afternoons, covering golf and tennis in term 5, and athletics and rounders in term 6. Please ensure that your child has a full, named PE kit in school, and ensure that earrings are removed on our PE days.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions. I am sure we will have an amazing term, with lots of wonderful work to share with you at our two final WOW walks of the year!

Kind regards, *Mrs Ellis-Jones* s.ellis-jones@teynham.kent.sch.uk

