

## Rabbit Class newsletter – terms 3 & 4



Dear families,

Welcome back, and happy new year! We hope you had an enjoyable festive break: many thanks for the very kind cards and gifts you sent in during the final week of school – absolutely not necessary, but very appreciated.

Our topic this term is 'coastlines'. During this topic we will learn all about the physical and human features of coastal areas, as well as revising our map-reading skills, and learning about key issues such as erosion, coastal tourism, and coastal rescue.

In English we will link our reading and writing to our 'coastlines' topic, culminating in writing descriptions of a coastal town, an adventure narrative set on the coast, a non-chronological report of a seaside town, and a persuasive text to increase tourism in a coastal area. We will work on improving our sentences by consistently maintaining either the past or the present tense, using strong noun phrases, expanding our use of conjunctions, correctly using commas, and practising use of past and present progressive verbs. For our class reading book this term I have chosen one of my favourites: Michael Morpurgo's *The Puffin Keeper*, which explores life during WWII on a small island. We will also be sharing books by Mairi Hedderwick, Ronda and David Armitage and Benji Davies, all with a coastal theme.

The majority of the class has now progressed to the Little Wandle spelling programme, which will continue until the end of year 2. A small number of children will continue to be offered phonics intervention lessons in small groups, and will progress to the spelling programme when they are ready. 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 phonics sounds/spelling rules 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/fluency 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 by reading it aloud to them at bedtime. Both books will need to be returned to school the following Wednesday, along with your child's yellow reading record (and children reading chapter/fluency books (they know who they are!) will also need to bring their fluency book in on Monday and Tuesday so they can use it in our 'reading practice' sessions).

In maths we will be focussing on money, then multiplication and division, before moving on to length and height, then mass, capacity and temperature. In computing our focus will be programming robot algorithms, and creating and interpreting pictograms.

'Uses of materials' will be our initial focus in science, including exploring the properties of materials, and how materials can be tested and used, and their limitations. In term 4 we will then study 'plant survival', exploring food chains, researching how habitats support plant survival, and learning the basic parts of a plant.

In art we will be sketching flower-heads, allowing us to explore shape, form, texture, colour and pattern, and in DT we will design and build a beach hut using wood. In music we will learn about the genre of rap before moving on to explore pieces of music inspired by methods of transport. We will also be learning a song for our class assembly. Our topics in PSHE will be 'dreams and goals' and 'healthy me', and in RE we will be exploring Humanism in term 3, and Christianity in term 4, with a focus on the Easter story and the concept of salvation.

The children have two PE lessons a week, on Tuesday and Friday. 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 as we progress!

Kind regards, *Mrs Ellis-Jones* [s.ellis-jones@teynham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:s.ellis-jones@teynham.kent.sch.uk)