

## Rabbit Class newsletter – terms 5 & 6



Dear families,

It was lovely to see many of you at our recent STEAM week walk-around – I hope enjoyed seeing the children's wonderful work, showcasing how far they have progressed already this year. How can it almost be summer term?!

Our topic next 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 next 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 next 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/phonics lessons throughout the summer term, and each Friday your child will again bring home spellings to practise.

We will continue to hold 'reading practice sessions' with small groups of children on Monday-Wednesday each week – please do remember to return your child's phonics/fluency book, and their 'reading for pleasure' book, every Wednesday, in addition to their annotated yellow reading record (*children reading fluency books will also need to bring their fluency books in to school on Mondays and Tuesdays, so they can be used in our reading practice sessions*).

In maths we will be focussing on measuring mass, capacity and temperature, before moving on to fractions (wholes, halves, quarters, thirds), telling the time (to the hour, half hour, and quarter past/quarter to), 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 ScratchJnr.

'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 tennis and sports day preparations in term 5 (term 6 TBC). 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 the term progresses! In the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break.

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