Owls Link Up Summer Term

Welcome back! I can’t believe that we are already in the Summer term, the final and busiest term of the year. The children have all been working so hard this year and have already learnt so much. I’m excited to see what the rest of the year brings for us.

Our topic this term, as the children may have already mentioned, is Julia Donaldson. I’m sure you will be familiar with many of her stories: The Gruffalo, Room on the Broom, Monkey Puzzle and the list goes on! Our trip this year will be linked to this, but more details to follow! Our topic is primarily a literacy based unit and of course we will be looking at many of her stories along the way. In our English lessons we will be writing our own character descriptions, letters, instructions and even stories. Hopefully this will give us plenty of practise of using and applying the breadth of grammar and spelling skills we have learnt over the year. We will continue to have daily phonics and spelling sessions as well as Literacy lessons in class altogether. Children who are completing Literacy and Language will be looking at Traditional Tales and Instructions.

In Maths this term we are continuing to practise our four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) as well as learning to tell the time, read scales and look at different shapes. We will be having a lot of problem solving activities to apply the range of skills we have been practising over the year. As we begin to build fluency with telling the time, if the children do have small analogue wristwatches, I would encourage that these are worn daily to help make telling the time more relevant and easier for them!

In our science lessons, our learning focuses on ‘survival’. This includes what animals need to survive, different types of habitats, as well as food chains. We will be carrying out further investigations to really embed how to work scientifically.

In our Art lessons we will be looking at Alex Scheffler, the illustrator for Julia Donaldson, and trying to create our own artwork in his style. We will also be researching other illustrators and thinking about their unique styles. We will be practising using a range of mediums and adding greater detail, time and thought into our artwork.

Our local area is the focus of our Geography learning as we will be looking at what geographical features we have in and around Benwick. This will involve some walks around the village, which I will provide further information of nearer the time.

History for this half term focuses on the lives of individuals who have had a significant impact of national and international achievements, such as Edith Cavell, Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. Each group will be researching their own individual, creating a presentation and then sharing with the rest of the class.

Our Design and Technology lessons link to our topic this term as we will be thinking about preparing healthy meals, such as ‘scrambled snake’ and ‘owl ice cream’ from the Gruffalo. We will be discussing how we can stay healthy as well as how we prepare different ingredients for cooking.

Reading

Please continue to read with your child at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes. I know that regular reading at this time of the year can be put on hold as children (and us!) would much rather spend time outside enjoying the sunshine, but regular reading has a huge impact on understanding across the curriculum. And there’s no reason why a book can’t be shared outside on the trampoline too!

Homework

As always, please choose one piece of homework to complete each week. Can I ask that larger homework is brought in the week beginning 20th May for this half term, and then the week beginning 8th July for Summer 2 as we will be having a big homework sharing afternoon then. As much as I love to see the things the children have made, we unfortunately do not have space in the classroom for everything and things can get damaged. Of course, we will still have children sharing what they have been up to across the term through their work in books and you are more than welcome to send photos via email or Class DoJo too.

Class Dojo

Just a reminder that we are using Class DoJo for behaviour in school, and as a useful tool in communicating what we are getting up to. I will continue to post on the ‘Class Page’ any learning or reminders, and the messaging feature remains for any individual quick queries, questions or updates.

PE kits

PE will continue to be indoors on a Monday morning and outdoors on a Friday afternoon. As the weather gets hotter, the children hopefully will not need as many warm clothes for PE and they should be able to wear their shorts and polo tops outside as well as inside. Please make sure children have tape for earrings, or earrings taken out – we cannot do this for the children so they need to be able to do this independently.

Water Bottles

Children should be bringing in a water bottle every day so that if they need a drink during lesson time, they can quickly and easily access water rather than missing valuable lesson time. This is especially true as the weather gets warmer and we are at greater risk of dehydration; having a water bottle readily available ensures that the children are drinking enough water throughout the day. Children should also be bringing in a sun hat to wear to keep them protected from the heat. If required, children may bring sun cream in a named bottle to reapply to themselves at lunchtime.

Kind Regards,

Miss Farquhar