

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a busy Spring Term. We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year! The title of our topic this term is, 'What an Invention!' Listed below is some of the work we shall be doing in the various areas of the curriculum.

Maths: We will be following the National Curriculum in line with our calculation policy. Throughout the term the children will be applying and consolidating skills and developing mathematical fluency in the following areas:

Number: Number and Place Value
Number: Addition and Subtraction
Number: Multiplication and Division
Number: Fractions and Measurements
Geometry: Properties of shape
Geometry: Position and Direction Statistics

English: This term we will be exploring 'Traditional Tales' with a particular focus on 'The Three Little Pigs.' The 'Image Theatre Company' is coming to perform 'Robin Hood'. We will be looking at the legend of the 'Wrekin Giant' and creating our own exciting stories linked to our class hills. We will also be exploring poem genres and performance poetry. Children will be looking at non-fiction texts and creating a biography of a famous inventor such as Thomas Telford as well as completing a unit linked to our educational visit. In addition to this, children will be completing work in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar built into all of the English units.

Science: Our science work is based on 'Materials.' The children will be sorting and classifying different kinds of materials, whilst exploring properties. In relation to this the children will be looking at Victorian inventions and how electricity is useful in the modern age and what materials were used in their inventions. They will also participate in scientific investigations. In addition to this, children will explore science through weekly visits to Forest School.

Computing: The children will have experience of 'Purple Mash'. Children will also familiarise themselves with laptop navigation and safety as well as using publisher to design a poster.

History: We will be looking at 'Inventions from the Past.' We will be focusing on 'Victorian Inventors' leading to 'The Industrial Revolution'. We will be looking briefly at life in the Victorian times with a focus on significant figures such as: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Telford, Thomas Edison and Ava Lovelace. Our School visit this term will be to 'Blists Hill Victorian Museum' where we will also be making our own brick. The date of this visit will follow.

Art: The children will be using a range of techniques and media in exploring 3D structures. Children will focus on work from sculptors: Andy Goldsworthy and Eva Hess. Children will also explore structure through using clay and learning how to mould and sculpt. In addition, linked to a focus on the Victorian Era children will respond to the work of Victorian Artist and designer William Morris.

Design and Technology: The children will be evaluating, planning and designing their own moving vehicle. The children will be briefly learning about the history of vehicles over the years and designing an olden day Victorian toy car. We are hoping to have a Victorian themed 'Invention Day' whereby children will bring in a Victorian invention (Homework Project - details to follow) to a gallery in the school hall.

Geography: The children will learn about our local wildlife areas and map out our forest school sites. They will be learning about where our school is situated within the town and will find it on local maps, looking at features of our local area. In addition to this after half-term children will be going on a walk around the local area to see where the school is situated on the map.

PE: Please ensure the children have an indoor PE kit and one that is appropriate for outside. We will be doing Games, Gymnastics and Dance this term. Ms Perks, will be running the outdoor P.E. lessons each week for all classes on a Wednesday.

Clun: Monday (indoor) Wednesday (outdoor)
Long Mynd: Tuesday (indoor) Wednesday (outdoor)
Wrekin: Tuesday (indoor) Wednesday (outdoor)

For the first half term, Clun will be changing their indoor PE session to Tuesday and Long Mynd will be changing theirs to a Thursday but will be returning to their usual days following the holidays.

PSHE: The children will be reflecting on a variety of issues throughout the term based on the themes of: Health and wellbeing - transition and loss, risk to health, internet safety growth and development, family and first aid.

In addition we have a Value focus for each half term:

Spring first half term: Hope

Spring second half term: Love

Religious Education: The children will be looking at 'What Jews believe?' as an additional faith and after half term we will be looking at explaining 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' We are hoping to be visiting St Giles Church on Ash Wednesday. Children will also explore the Chinese New Year.

Reading: The children will explore a number of reading activities on a daily basis. The children have been encouraged to choose and change their own reading books when necessary from the appropriate colour-banded box. Thank you in advance for all your support in listening to your child read at home, we appreciate all the comments in their reading diaries. Can we make sure that all reading diaries are in school daily so that adults can write in them to say that your child has been heard reading.

Homework: Weekly spellings and activities will be sent home on a Friday, to be handed in on the following Thursday. A spelling test will take place on a Friday. As we are now settled with our new morning routine of encouraging independence allowing children to come into classes independently, I would like to thank you for your support with this. School doors are open as normal from 8.45am so please feel free to pop in if you have any queries or questions to speak to your child's class teacher.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Emma Cliff into our Key Stage One team. She is a student teacher and will be primarily teaching in Long Mynd Class under the supervision of Miss East however she will be working with children across the phase during the week. She will be with us until the end of this academic year and we would like to make her feel very welcome.

Kind Regards,

Stuart Haycock

Helen East

Kathy Skitt

Emma Cliff