

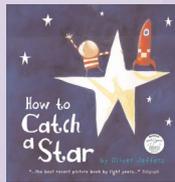
Welcome back to the last term of the year. As ever, the year has flown by with many exciting events taking place. We now look forward to another enjoyable term culminating in the Summer Residential in the final week.

We are now finalising arrangements for our residential. If you or your child has any reservations about the trip, please feel free to contact us so we can resolve them before they become bigger worries.

Rosemarie James & Tracey Wake
Class Teachers

Literacy

This term our Talk4Writing focus will be on the book *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. It is a quest story about a boy who does what the title states - he catches a star. At face value, it's a simple story but there are many underlying themes such as loneliness and friendship which will be explored.



The visit by Martin Young on 12 June will allow us to focus on the opening of the story and we will consider what the prequel may be. We will draw up a toolkit for openings before writing our own which draws the reader in.

We will then move on to the non-fiction text type of *Instructions*. Instructions are one of the easier non-fiction forms using temporal conjunctions and imperative verbs to good effect. Because the text form is not as complex in its nature, we will spend less time on its study and focus our attentions on poetry in the final weeks of term. We will look at a number of poems, analysing their form and using them as a stimulus for our own creations.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

We will carry out a spelling assessment at the beginning of the term, the outcomes of which will be shared with you. We will then use the results of the outcomes to focus specific teaching in the coming weeks.

We will continue to focus on the creation and use of toolkits for both aspects of grammar and punctuation which will then be used and applied into both shared and independent writing opportunities.

Reading

During our weekly lessons, we will continue to build on the children's comprehension skills through a variety of stories and non-fiction texts. We will be using cross-curricular texts linked to 'Ancient Greece' where children will be able to demonstrate their comprehension skills whilst further developing their history knowledge and understanding of this topic. We will continue to read *Phoenix* by SF Said as the class reader and also use this text to: further analyse the author's punctuation uses; continue to develop the children's understanding of new word meanings and use their comprehension skills of deduction and inference to be able to make predictions on what will happen next.

Numeracy

This term we will focus on three units of work as follows:

Additive Reasoning: The children will solve calculation problems in different contexts, appropriately choosing and using operations, number facts, understanding of place value and mental and written methods. The four calculations, fractions (including decimal and percentages) simple algebra and measurement will be included in the work.

Number Sense: The children will represent and explain the relationship between decimals, fractions and percentages and how decimals and fractions fit into the number system. They will use this understanding to solve problems.

Multiplicative Reasoning: The children will solve problems involving multiplication and division (leading to ratio and proportion), appropriately choosing and using operations, number facts, understanding of place value and mental and written methods. Talk4Maths will help the children to explain their decision-making and justify their solutions and level of accuracy.

Science

This term we will continue with our topic involving the study of *Living Things and Their Habitats*.

Last term we went into some detail finding out about the parts of a plant and exploring how they reproduce.

We will begin this term by finding out how new plants can be grown from cuttings and bulbs. We will link this to our non-fiction work on instructional texts, eg: how to grow seed potatoes or take stem cuttings.

We will then progress to the study of animal behaviour and will learn about the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. This work will also provide the opportunity for cross-curricular information text writing.

Finally we will move onto exploring the life process of reproduction in some animals.

Computing

This term we will finish our websites about cyber safety and responsibility when using the internet before moving on to our new topic of 'We are architects' where the children will create their own virtual gallery using a simple CAD (computer-aided design) tool. The

children will look at existing art galleries before creating a sculpture using Sketchup to create their own.

Our online safety focus this term is on 'Searching' when using the internet. This has been covered throughout the children's work when developing their websites. They should understand how to search without finding inappropriate content and how to effectively search to ensure their results are reliable.

- Targets:
- Explore art galleries and understand the work of architects, designers and engineers working in 3D
 - Create a sculpture using SketchUp – a simple CAD tool
 - Add furniture and artwork to your gallery
 - Create a virtual tour of your gallery and develop spatial awareness by exploring and experimenting with this 3D virtual environment

History

This term we shall be continuing with our topic: Ancient Greece. The children have already gained a good understanding of who the Ancient Greeks were and how they have influenced the world we live in today. We have looked at some of the main areas of Ancient Greece and why they were important and we have also learned about the Olympics. This term we will be looking at the Battle of Marthia (Athens vs Spartans), Greek culture and festivals as well as the Gods and Goddesses they worshipped.



Art/DT

This will be linked to our History topic of Greeks. We will be creating Greek pots and mosaics.

RE

This term we will continue our study of *Hinduism*.

We will begin by considering how people see things differently and relate this to the Hindu belief that there is only one God but many ways to describe God.

We will look in more detail at the three deities of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, describing the qualities they each possess.

We will further explore the concept of reincarnation and that effects this belief has upon a Hindu's way of life.

We will look at the key features of a Mandir and describe aspects of Hindu worship before finally looking at the significance of the festival of Diwali.

Spanish

¡Hola a todos!(Hello everyone!). I hope you have all had a lovely half term break.

During the second half of this term, the children will use the three verbs associated with eating different meals to say what they have for breakfast, lunch and dinner and use expressions of frequency to add detail, such as *siempre* (always), *normalmente* (usually), *a veces* (sometimes) and *nunca* (never). They will develop their dictionary skills with nouns. The children will also learn/review how to give their opinion of different food and drinks and complete a simple food/drink diary in Spanish.

Lastly, I would like to wish the Y6 children who are leaving a very happy and successful time at their Secondary School and I hope one day the Spanish they've learnt at Maidwell Primary will become very useful! All the best to them.

¡Feliz Verano; / Happy Summer!

Music

In this final half term we will be listening to hip hop music with a focus on 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air'. The class will have the opportunity to use their voices in a different style as well as continue to use a variety of instruments to accompany the music. We will also complete our topic on the blues by creating lyrics to fit the twelve bar blues chord sequence.

PE

Our PE sessions will be swimming on a Monday afternoon and PE with the coach on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their complete PE kit in school including outdoor footwear (separate from their normal school shoes). PE is an essential, not optional, part of the school curriculum and as such we will always take every step possible to ensure your child can take part. Please note it is also not acceptable for children to wear items of their school uniform such as polo shirt/shoes as their PE kit.

In our **Athletics** unit the children will focus on developing their technical understanding of athletic activity. They will learn how to set targets and improve their performance in a range of running, jumping and throwing activities. As in all athletic activities, children think about how to achieve the greatest speed, height, distance or accuracy. Children should learn to develop the consistency of their actions in a number of events and to increase the number of techniques they use. In addition, children will evaluate their own and others' work and suggest ways to improve it.

PSHE

This term, as a whole school, we will be continuing our very valuable work on the development of a Growth Mindset. For those of you who attended the Growth Mindset meeting on 4 May you will know that intelligence is not fixed, learning is lifelong and effort = reward.

We will continue in assemblies to develop this essential lifelong attitude of positivity. Remember, the statement is not '*I can't do it*' it's '*I can't do it YET*'.

As well as continuing to sing Shakira's *I Won't Give Up*, we will learn a new song from Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* entitled *Almost There* - a jazz infused celebration of perseverance.

Please look at the school website for the details of the meeting held in this regard.

