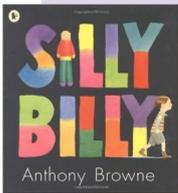


Welcome back to the Spring Term 2017. We are already half way through the academic year. We hope you had a lovely half term break. Mrs Wake has enjoyed her first term at Maidwell. She has got to know everyone and is looking forward to her second term in Class 3.

Rosemarie James & Tracey Wake
Class Teachers



Literacy

This term our work will focus on the story entitled *Silly Billy* by Anthony Browne. The story type is that of 'overcoming the monster' and we will focus on the character of grandma as the helper in the story. The narrative focus will be that of writing creating suspense to build tension in order to scare the reader and keep the reader wanting to find out what will happen. The children will begin by learning and analysing the story through the Hear, Map, Step, Speak process.

Martin Young will, as usual, join us on the second Monday of the term in order to assist us in creating further images which will then be used to write suspense passages.

Following the unit developing suspense, we will begin a two week non-fiction unit on *Explanation*. An explanation text is any text that explains actions, ideas or processes to the reader. It is one of the most difficult texts as you really have to be able to understand something really well to be able to explain it clearly. The structure and features are:

- A series of logical - often chronological - explanatory steps
- Paragraphs usually beginning with a topic sentence
- Formal connectives and sentence signposts to link technical vocabulary

We will begin by hearing, mapping and analysing an explanation text linked to the story entitled *Why people are worried about the dark*.

Reading

Following on from the recent reading assessment the children completed in January, their weekly lessons will continue to focus on areas of development, particularly the longer, more inference-based questions, where the children have to give their opinions and support it with evidence from the text. The children will continue to receive their weekly reading comprehension activities for you to help with at home and we encourage regular reading and questioning of the text to help with your child's reading, as well as writing skills.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

We will continue to build 'toolkits' for grammatical terms which will map grammatical definitions and build examples of the particular grammatical feature. This term we will also build toolkits to assist understanding of when and how to use specific forms of punctuation including: colons, semi-colons, dashes, brackets and hyphens. We will also undertake another assessment which will be analysed to inform future teaching.

Please continue to focus on weekly spelling challenges.

Handwriting will continue to be a focus and the children will be encouraged to adopt a cursive style.

Numeracy

This term we will focus on three units of work. The first of these will be geometric reasoning. In this unit the following will be covered:

- 2 and 3D shape
- angles
- comparison and classification of geometric shapes
- coordinates
- area and volume

This will be followed by a unit on number sense which will include:

- reading, writing and ordering numbers up to 10,000,000 and determining the value of each digit
- the rounding of numbers to the required degree of accuracy
- use of negative numbers
- fractions (including decimals and percentages)

We will then begin a unit on additive reasoning and, in the first week, will cover:

- addition and subtraction using a formal written method
- addition and subtraction of calculations mentally
- use of rounding to check answers to calculations

On Thursdays and Fridays Mrs Wake will reinforce this teaching by focussing on reasoning skills which require application of knowledge and word problems based on these areas of maths.

Please assist your child in the completion of the weekly maths challenges and encourage the use of IXL which will reinforce the teaching/ learning taking place in the classroom.

Science

This term we will continue our topic on *Forces*. We have already learnt about gravity, friction, air and water resistance. We will continue to explore these concepts by conducting a number of experiments and planning and carrying out more fair testing. New scientific language will include *Lever, Spring, Gear* and *Pulley*. We will conclude by exploring machines which transfer force and motion and, in the final week of term, link this to the forces and bridges story entitled *Bernie's Bridges* which will further allow the children to explore: forces in opposition, strong structures and bridge design absorption.

Computing

This term we will finish our 'We Are Artists' unit where children will complete their final piece of computer-generated landscapes art, having completed tessellations using Inkscape and Scratch software. After this, we will begin our unit based on being web developers, where children will create a website explaining e-safety and responsible behaviour online.

This term our online safety focus will be on *Reporting*. This topic looks at how children can ask for help when using the internet and identifies different ways in which they can report anyone/thing that concerns them or could be potentially dangerous.

- Targets:
- Understand how to ask for help when using the internet and identify a range of ways to report any concerns
 - Develop a website based on e-safety using effective research skills, a variety of software on a range of digital devices
 - Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly

History

This term we shall be continuing with our topic *Anglo-Saxons*. The children have already gained a good understanding of how and why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain as well as looking at the lifestyles, homes and food of village people. This





term we will be looking at the hierarchy of Anglo-Saxon people, their jobs, religion and beliefs and Sutton Hoo before finishing with The Battle of Hastings 1066 which established the ending of the Anglo-Saxon period.

Art/DT

Later in the term we will have an Art/DT day when we will build a model of an Anglo-Saxon village.

RE

This term we will continue our topic entitled *Christianity in Action*. We have already looked in detail at the story of The Good Samaritan, explored a range of charitable organisation and had a visit from Rev Walter to detail his involvement with the Operation Christmas Child appeal and Mr Graham Smith who told us about his involvement in the Outspan Charity through which we support Talindeka Leubin Cylus in Uganda. In the coming weeks we will be visited by the Hope Centre (a charity which supports the homeless in Northampton). We will look at the lives of a number of Christian saints to explore how their beliefs influenced their actions.

Spanish

¡Hola a todos! (Hello everyone!).

During the second part of this term, children in year 5 and 6 will continue with simple calculations based on the five times table which will lead into learning how to ask for and give the time in digital and analogue clocks. The children will also extend their food and drink vocabulary. They will start learning how to say when mealtimes are and what they usually have for breakfast. Children will also learn/review about Easter in Spain.

Music

Class 3 will continue to have weekly drumming Samba lessons which will culminate in a performance on **Monday 20 March** (9.30-10.00am). Please join us if you can.

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.

Tennis Unit

During the Class 3 Tennis unit children will recap racket skills learnt in previous years and attempt to improve upon them showing control and tactical thinking. They will develop their hand-eye co-ordination and ball control by playing games that will test their throwing and catching ability. They will develop their racket skills attempting more advanced shots, for example the forehand, volley and backhand shot. Different individual, partner and group activities will be played to develop shot accuracy. Pupils will learn the rules of the game and attempt to umpire peer matches.

PSHE

In assemblies we will continue to focus on building a positive mindset. We have already adopted *Try Everything* by Shakira as our school song and had explored the inspiring story of *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds. This term we will continue to explore this theme through uplifting songs and stories.

