

Dear All

Welcome back to the second term of the year. It's always very busy with Christmas on the horizon and all that it brings. We will be working hard in the coming weeks in order to prepare for our Aladdin production. However, we have a very busy term in curriculum terms – as you will see - and the children know we'll be rehearsing at lunchtimes in order to ensure we cover everything we need to.

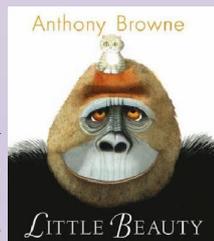
Mrs James & Mrs Wake

Assessments

We will begin this term with a number of assessments in Reading, Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation and Maths. These assessments allow the staff to determine need and will inform our planning in the coming weeks.

Literacy

This term our Literacy work will come from the focus on a beautiful picture book entitled *Little Beauty* by Anthony Browne. Anthony's books are wonderfully illustrated and this 'Change' story explore loneliness, friendship, loyalty and bravery amongst other strong and important human emotions.



We will begin by learning the story and discussing its meaning and messages. We will box-up the structure of the story and explore other stories – of which there are many – which follow the same structure.

As we will be focussing on the particular skill of descriptive writing, the children will, as their

cold write, be asked to use the structure to create a descriptive piece. This will then be analysed to inform next steps for all.

A model text will be analysed in order to identify the particular features required for powerful description and a toolkit co-constructed with the class.

As ever, Martin Young will be with us in week 2 in order to create, alongside the children, innovated images which will support further descriptive writing.

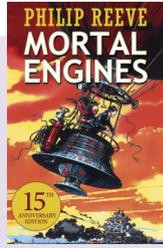
Following the work on description, we will then move on to a unit focussing on *Information Text*. We will link the model text to the original story by analysing a text entitled *Gorillas who use sign language*. This model text will be analysed to identify the structure of this text type and an information text boxed-up plan will be created. We will then move on to identify the features specific to the text type and together create a toolkit of these. Later, we will innovate a new information text before the children use all the 'tools' at their disposal, ie: the boxed-up plan and information toolkit to create their independent information texts.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)

We will continue to build the grammar and punctuation work into our daily Literacy lessons as in this way the children learn how to use grammar/punctuation to improve the quality of their writing. As well as this we will continue to use the icons/actions created for particular grammatical features/terms to help the children to retain their knowledge and understanding.



Reading



This term we will continue to read our class novel – *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve. The children have been enjoying the book so far and have explored the author's language features and focussed on different reading comprehension strands during some book talk sessions which will continue to happen over the course of this term. Our hope is that we will be able to get the book finished in time for the cinema release of the film towards Christmas time (and hopefully plan a class trip to see it!)

We will continue to encourage the children to read our page turners and complete their post-card reviews once they have finished their book. Please continue to enjoy the books with your children and ask questions about the book, getting the children to provide evidence from the text to support their answer.

We will be completing another reading assessment at the beginning of the term to establish the reading strands we need to focus on and we will continue to promote lots of oral reading during all lessons to encourage fluency, the correcting of mistakes and the constant re-reading for clarification. The children need to know that it is acceptable to go back and read something again if they don't understand it first time.

Maths

This term we will begin by focussing on a unit of work entitled *Multiplicative Reasoning*. As ever, we will begin by looking at the language associated with the maths and words such as multiple, factor, factor pair and common factors and multiples will be defined. We will then go on to solve problems involving multiplication and division in different contexts, appropriately choosing and understanding number facts, understanding of place value and being able to choose when to use either mental or written methods. Your child's ability to access this work will be directly affected by their recall of tables facts and associated

division facts. We will have a tables assessment in the coming weeks so please keep focussing on the areas identified particularly for your child.

We will then move on to working on *Geometric Reasoning*. Again we will begin by focussing on a Never Heard the Word Grid of terms including words such as parallel, diagonal, diameter, area, perimeter to name just a few. The children need to be confident of their meaning in order to access the geometry. We will then move on to working on the fact that angles are a measure of turn. We will draw and measure angles and use the understanding of angle to describe the properties of different shapes. We will then progress on to using the understanding of angle and properties of shapes to solve problems.

Science

Our topic this term is entitled *Super Scientists* and during it the children will work scientifically on a variety of quick challenges and longer tasks in order to learn about the different ways in which scientists work in the real world. This topic looks at the discoveries of famous scientists, the methods forensic scientists use and the various ways scientists tell other about new discoveries.

The following learning objectives will be covered:

- to describe what a scientist is and the different ways in which they work
- to describe the discoveries of some famous scientists
- to carry out some forensic tests
- to use forensic tests to solve a crime
- to identify and choose good ways of letting others know about science in the news

Computing

This term, the children will become computing artists. Using Inkscape software, the children will be designing and creating geometric art using tessellations. This unit allows the children to develop their programming skills by using sequence, selection and repetition ideas to create their art work as well as logical reasoning and explaining how simple algorithms work.

As well as this, Class 3 will take part in an online safety session with the NCC Online Safety Officer on Tuesday 4th December.

- Targets:**
- To create a piece of geometric art using specific software
 - To create an algorithm
 - To develop an understanding of vector and turtle graphics
 - Use sequence, selection and repetition to create the piece of art

Geography

Last term, Class 2 and 3 were supposed to explore the United Kingdom. However, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring maps and finding out how to use atlases properly, looking specifically at using the index to locate a specific place, understanding symbols, being able to give grid references, and understanding compass directions which took the whole of last term but they gained so much from it.

It has meant that this term, the children will use their map-reading skills to help them when exploring the United Kingdom. We will spend time building on our geographical knowledge by naming and locating countries, counties and landmarks within the UK and other key topographical features such as mountains and coasts. We will then focus more closely on other features including some of its major canals, rivers and cities and make a comparison to another country.

Art/DT

This term our Art/DT will focus on our production of Aladdin. The children will be involved in the making of all props for the show and Class3 will work with Mrs Elliott during a special Art Day to create the backdrop for the production.

RE

This term we will continue our topic entitled *Sikhism in Britain*. We have already learnt about Sikh values and symbols of Sikhism. We will continue to explore concepts of leadership round Guru Nanak and his successors before exploring the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib – the Sikh Holy Scriptures. We will find out about the Amrit ceremony and compare to Confirmation in Christianity and Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Judaism. We will end by exploring Sikh festivals and their importance to Sikhs.

Spanish

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to tell the parents how welcome I have been made to feel by all the children at Maidwell school. ¡Muchas gracias!

For some children in Years 5 and 6 the topics are a recap. For others it is new material. The topics we will be looking at moving forward are: farm animals, family members, parts of the body and daily routine. All of this is delivered through games, songs and worksheets to reinforce the learning.

Music

This term Class 3 will again be working with Mr Bateman from NMPAT and will be receiving weekly Samba lessons on Thursday afternoons. This will culminate in a performance for parents on Thursday 29 November at 3.00pm.

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.

Gymnastics Unit

In this unit, children focus on gymnastic actions on the floor and on apparatus. They will learn complex rolls, jumps, shapes, movements and balances performing them safely on the floor and on apparatus. Children will peer assess and self-assess their learning using specific scoring criteria. They will learn how to structure a complex gymnastics sequence using a clear start, middle and end. Finally, at the end of the unit children will be able to combine a complex sequence of movements using music. They will be expected to plan and perform their sequences individually, with a partner and as part of a group.

PSHE

Our themes of the 5R's and Growth Mindset will continue to be explored through the arrival and hanging of our six Growth Mindset banners and the themes will be part of everything we do in the coming weeks and months. A 'can do' attitude will be particularly valuable as we go into full Aladdin production!

