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Headteacher: Mr Peter Allen

Middle Phase Autumn Term Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a good summer and welcome to the Middle Phase (Years 3 & 4). Please read on to find out about all the exciting learning opportunities that await the children this term.

Topic Focus	Dynamic Earth
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Main Learning Focus</i>
English/Literacy	The whole class texts that we will be reading this term will include: A selection of Poetry for Performance; Leon and the Place Between; Firebird and Pompeii. Children will be performing and writing poems; describing different characters and settings; writing a narrative and a news report. In addition, they will have a variety of opportunities for speaking and listening. They will also be developing their understanding of grammar and sentence structure.
Maths	This term, children will be deepening their understanding of place value. Some of the objectives we will cover include ordering three digit numbers, reading and writing three digit numbers, identifying 10/100 more and less than a given number and identifying the value of each digit in a three digit number. We will also be exploring expanded methods for column addition and column subtraction. Children will be given lots of opportunities to apply these concepts in problem solving situations.
Science	Our topic for the first half term is Rocks and Soils. Children will have the opportunity to classify and explore different rock samples. We will devise investigations to test the hardness of different rocks and explore suitable uses for different rocks. Throughout this topic, children will be given lots of opportunities to develop their scientific enquiry skills. In the second half of the Autumn term, we will be learning about forces and magnets and will develop our investigative skills.
RE	Children will have the opportunity to learn about Hinduism: the variety of deities; festivals; places of worship.
Computing	During this term, we will revisit the topic of e-safety. Children will be reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe in the digital world. They will be utilising programming skills using ACE Town.
PSHE	This term's focus is beginning and belonging. Children have already created their class charters and thought about making people feel welcome. We will also spend time thinking about strategies to cope when we experience a new situation.
Art and DT	In Art, we will be exploring the work of the Japanese Artist Hokusai creating our own volcano artwork. We will also develop our drawing skills with a focus on drawing facial features and portraits. In DT, we will be designing and making an earthquake resistant structure.
History and Geography	We will be having a geographical focus this term. Children will learn about the location of earthquakes and volcanoes, how they are formed and how they impact upon the communities living nearby.
Music	In music this term children will be maintaining layers of rhythmic ostinato (repeated pattern) played on African drums. They will learn different tones on the drums and will play using call and response. Children will sing songs and will focus upon good singing posture, breathing and diction.
PE	Our outside PE for the Autumn term will be invasion games. Children will develop their agility, hand eye co-ordination and ability to work as a team. Our inside PE will be gymnastics – principles of balance and creative dance linked to our topic. Children will have the opportunity to develop their rhythm, balance and co-ordination.
Modern Foreign Languages	Children will be learning Spanish. This will involve learning basic conversational phrases, the names of number and colours.
Visits	None this term

PE.days/kits

PE Kits are required in school Monday to Friday.

Inside PE - a white t-shirt, dark shorts, trainers or plimsolls

Outside PE - trainers, a white t-shirt, dark shorts, a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms, as it can get very cold in the autumn term.

No jewellery except stud earrings and watches should be worn in school and these must be removed for all PE activities as it is no longer acceptable to use tape to cover earrings. This applies in both PE lessons and at any clubs. Whenever possible children should be able to remove their own jewellery before a PE lesson. If this is not possible, we would advise that children leave earrings at home on their PE day. Any child who cannot remove their studs will be given another task to complete during the lesson.

Performances

Years 3 and 4 will be given the opportunity to perform in the Spring Term.

Reading

Now that children are in Middle Phase they will be introduced or continue to access Accelerated Reader (AR). This is an online system where children take quizzes on the books that they have read. Children will be given AR targets to try and meet. When they reach these targets, they will be given a certificate. New targets will then be set again in the Spring Term. Children will be given plenty of opportunity to complete the quizzes at school; quiz access at home is not possible. Even though children may wish to increasingly read independently now that they are in Year 3, we do still encourage you to read with your child. Children can of course read books that are not on the AR system, but if you would like to check whether books you have at home are part of AR you can use the following website or search for Accelerated Reader Book Find UK.

<http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx>

We will be happy to answer any questions about AR during the Meet the Teacher meeting on the 17th September. If you still feel unclear about this, please feel free to contact your class teacher.

Reading records Reading records will now be used to record both home and school reading.

1) Book band or ZPD level will be recorded inside the front cover.

2) Record of school reading

Your child writes the page number read to (and title, if a new book) with an 'S' symbol. The aim is for children to independently read for a minimum of 10 minutes every day at school.

3) Record of home reading

Your child writes the date, page number read to (and title if a new book) with an 'H' symbol.

4) Monitoring of number of reads at home

5 reads a week target with a minimum of 100 minutes of fiction reading a week, which can include reading in school. Children will read the same book at home and at school.

Parents are asked to sign against the fifth home reading record as evidence that children have read five times and to the page number indicated.

Homework

Children will be set an open ended task every two weeks (approximately). Children will be given the opportunity to share their learning with their friends in class.

We were really impressed with the quality of the homework that the children completed last school year. It was lovely to see the different and creative ways that the children tackled the tasks.

Spellings

At the beginning of term, we completed a spelling test of the first 40 words from the national curriculum word list for years 1/2 and years 3/4. We will be giving you the results of these tests at Parent/Teacher consultations.

Spelling and Handwriting Homework

Each week your child will bring home their handwriting books with a new list of 10 words.

They are expected to Look, Cover, Write and Check each word a minimum of 4 times, once per day.

This should be completed on the reverse of the page upon which their spellings are stuck.

Each word should be written between the two grey lines, with ascenders and descenders towards each pink line as appropriate.

The font used gives each child a clear example of how to join the letters of each word and must be followed.

Parental Help

Parental help is always greatly appreciated in school. If you are able to offer regular or occasional help, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support,

Middle Phase Team

Mrs Landeryou, Ms McAuley, Mrs Clipsham, Mr Whitehouse, Mrs Wood, Mrs Henson, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Evans.