



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0UA
(01284) 386203
Executive Head Teacher – Mrs. Claire Flatman
Head of School – Ms. Imogen Wallis
office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

16th September 2020

Curriculum Letter Autumn Term 2020

Dear Families and Carers,

Welcome to Owls class. It is wonderful to have all your children back in school and we are extremely pleased to see how well they have settled in, after such a previously disjointed school year. We are particularly pleased at how they have embraced all our new routines, as well as old. This letter sets out the subject areas we will be covering this term in Year 3 and 4.

Maths

In Maths we have started with place value, refreshing the children's knowledge of the value of each digit, comparing and ordering numbers, and developing their knowledge, in order to identify and use larger numbers. We will then apply these skills to both mental and written methods of addition and subtraction, finishing the half term by focusing on properties of 2-D and 3-D shape, and identifying and comparing different types of angles. As usual, our focus will be developing mathematical skills in fluency, reasoning and problem solving across each of these mathematical strands.

We continue to strengthen children's recall of multiplication facts and associated division facts using a range of methods to teach tables, including daily counting, homework, interactive resources and rock stars, also year 4 need to know all by end of year for national test.

English

Our English lessons have begun by looking at report writing, using a variety of reading as a stimulus, including 'The Wolves in the Walls' by Neil Gaiman, 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett and 'Top Gun of the Sky' by Martin Bradley. We are linking our guided reading comprehension with developing the children's knowledge of our History topic, by using stories from the Viking sagas and non-fiction texts based around the Vikings. Our fiction focus will be myths and legends, recognising their features and developing language skills to use when planning and writing our own. We will go on to study a variety of narrative poems, including 'You Wait Till I'm Older Than You' by Michael Rosen and a variety of others chosen by Pie Corbett, featured in 'The Works 4'. At the end of this focus, the children will develop their performance skills, including intonation and emphasis.

History and Geography

In studying the Vikings, the children will learn about when and where they invaded Britain, where they came from and how they travelled. They will also explore significant events in Viking History such as important battles and the lives of rulers of the era.

Science

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Our Science topic this term is forces and magnets. The children will learn about different types of forces, focusing on friction and magnetism. They will learn to describe the poles of a magnet and how they will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

PSHE

The children will learn about exploring our feelings and relationships with each other, in the topic Being Me in My World.

RE

Our focus will be Christianity, looking at how Christians show that reconciliation with God and others is important. We will also look at Islam, focussing on how a Muslim shows their submission and obedience to Allah.

Music

Although, because of Covid restrictions, we are not able to sing, we will be developing our listening and appraisal skills in music, based on a R&B song for children called 'Let Your Spirit Fly' by Joanna Mangona.

Children will extend their number vocabulary and ability to meet and greet people in French. They will then focus on asking about costs and how to make basic transactions.

Art and Design

The children will focus on developing key art techniques, such as tone, shading and collage.

PE

The children will have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will need to come to school dressed in a full PE kit on those days. They will be learning skills of Netball and Hockey, ultimately applying these to playing competitive games, in teams within our class. Where possible, children should not come into school wearing earrings on PE days, or they should be able to take their own earrings out and keep them safely until put back in.

Supporting your child's learning

Please help to ensure that your child learns their tables up to x12. Practising using Times Tables Rock Stars is an ideal and enjoyable way for this to happen and they can do it using their logins which are stuck in their home school diaries. This has to happen frequently and repetitively to be successful. Those children who are already secure in their tables could focus on associated division facts and becoming faster with their recall. The children

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will be tested towards the end of the academic year as part of a national initiative to ensure that tables are known by all children in year 4.

We will give out spellings on Friday and test children the following Friday. A Topic or Literacy home learning task will be also be given on Friday and again, should be handed in on the following Friday.

Reading

Now we are becoming more settled into school routines, we will be focusing on the importance of regular reading, both in school and at home. We will focus on choosing books which are appropriate to us as individuals, how choosing the right book helps enjoyment in reading and how regular reading at home can benefit our learning in all subjects. Other benefits we have discussed and are encouraging, include an increased breadth of vocabulary, pleasure in reading independently, a better understanding of other cultures and better general knowledge.

Please could you support your child in recording their home reading in their School Diary, and signing that you have seen it in the 'Home' section at the end of the week.

Please come and see us if you would like to discuss any part of the contents of this letter. We are very much looking forward to a successful term, working in partnership with yourselves.

Kind regards,

Ms Wallis and Mrs Lockwood

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