



## **FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER**

### **Form III : Autumn Term 2017**

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer. I am filled with excitement for the term ahead. I am very much looking forward to taking your daughter through their Form III journey. Where possible I like to promote an open door policy. You are very welcome to make an appointment to see me before or after school should you have concerns or simply wish to discuss general matters. I will check my emails regularly throughout the school day where time allows and will check them finally before I leave the site at 5pm. If there are urgent issues arising please phone the school to ensure that I am informed immediately.

#### **Maths:**

We will start with using number lines and 100 squares to reinforce understanding of place value, after which we will move on to investigating 2D and 3D shapes, fractions, measures and data-handling. We will also be revisiting the four rules of number and money and learning number bonds and times tables.

#### **English:**

We will start by studying a class text, 'The Iron Man'. The girls will be using this as a basis for creative writing lessons. The girls will be provided with the books and for the most part reading will take place in class, although the books may be sent home on occasion. The second half of term will be based around the topic of Tigers and will include poetry and a short non-fiction text. Girls will be using their Lammy pens after Christmas.

#### **Science:**

During the first part of this term our topic will be Plants, when we will discover the function of their different parts as well as investigating their life cycle. Later in the term our topic will be Forces and Magnets: finding out about pushing, pulling, friction, gravity and magnetism.

#### **History:**

The girls will be studying the Stone Age and Iron Age. The girls will learn about key events, the way of life and important people during this period. To enrich this study, we will soon be visiting Celtic Harmony Camp. You will receive a separate email about this very popular visit very shortly, as it is scheduled for 21st September.

#### **RE:**

In the first half of term we look at Diwali and its importance in bringing a sense of belonging to Hindus. In the second half of term we explore the Christmas story in terms of its true meaning to Christians today.

#### **Geography:**

The girls' first Geography topic is to look at maps and mapmaking and to practise these skills by devising their map of the locality. Later in the term they will be studying the country of Ghana and in particular its production of cocoa and chocolate, always a popular topic!

### **Computing:**

In the first half term the girls will learn how to stay safe online. They will watch short animations to portray the ways in which we should stay safe when using the internet, and then discuss what they have learnt. The girls will then plan and create a leaflet about Online Safety, demonstrating their knowledge. They will use the Internet to find suitable information and images and present their findings in a leaflet.

Later in the term the girls will learn how to organise, classify and present data in both graphs and databases. They will then interpret and discuss their results, producing a presentation of their findings.

### **French:**

We will be continuing with our 'Tout le Monde' course which the girls really enjoyed last year. There will be lots of speaking and listening activities using the interactive whiteboard, as well as some to develop reading and writing skills and strategies for language learning. We will be revising and extending vocabulary in these areas: classroom objects and instructions; colours; expressing likes and dislikes; learning about a French village and the places in it; some weather expressions.

### **PSHCE**

We will be covering:

- Setting goals for the new year and term
- feelings; our own and those of others, and how to deal with them
- understanding that compromise is an important part of a friendship
- opinions and awareness of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- consequences of unkind behaviour for ourselves and others

### **Music:**

Music lessons this term will focus on spooky music. We will listen to a variety of music in a scary style and explore what different characteristics contribute to this style. We will use a mixture of songs to explore vocal sound effects, percussive and melodic musical ideas. The girls will use a variety of music elements to create their own spooky musical ideas.

### **Art and D&T:**

The girls will be working with different techniques and materials to expand their creative experience and expertise. At the beginning of term, we will be concentrating on reinforcing our drawing skills through the descriptive elements of shape, line and tone in both our expressive and observational artwork.

In order to develop practical skills in the manipulation of different materials, we will be experimenting with both textile weaving and model making, using colour and pattern to reinforce our understanding of design.

Sketchbook work will underpin the development of our ideas and self-expression.

### **PE:**

This term the girls have two lessons; one will be gymnastics and the other basic netball with cross country and orienteering skills, interspersed once a month.

### **Homework:**

I will be setting formal written homework in Maths and English. Alongside this girls will have their weekly spellings to learn for tests on Thursdays, their reading and ongoing practice of their times tables. These pieces of homework should take a maximum of 30 minutes depending on the nature of the task and the individual. On occasion the girls might be set a piece of homework relating to our History or Geography topics. I appreciate that after school can be busy so if there are any problems completing homework please let me know.

Our term always starts with a kit inspection! Would you please ensure that your daughter brings with her to school all her PE kit, clearly named. As the weather is often unreliable, she should also have with her in school, as an obligatory part of her uniform, a named cagoule and sun hat/cap. Additionally, I would be most grateful if you would check that her pencil case is fully equipped with several HB pencils, a fountain pen and cartridges, 15cm ruler, rubber and a set of colouring pencils. This prevents a lot of anxiety in the first few days! Most clubs, music and elocution lessons will begin in the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September.

I am very much looking forward to the term ahead and I hope that you and your daughter soon feel at ease with life in form III.

With the kindest regards,

Miss Alice Harding