



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form IV : Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. I am very much looking forward to welcoming your daughters back to school on Wednesday morning and getting to know them better.

Form IV is an exciting year where the girls will have the opportunity to mature further and show greater independence in both their learning and personal organisation. This letter provides you with a flavour of what the girls will be covering in the different areas of the curriculum this term.

Our first unit in English deals with stories set in historic settings. Our main text, 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo, recalls events of a story during the Second World War. The main character is a young boy who runs away from boarding school and is offered shelter by an elderly lady who tells him her story. We will be looking in depth at the characters, events and structure of this novel, in addition to comparing it with other stories set in different periods of history. Our other English units this term are recounts, where we will be focusing on newspapers and magazines, followed by stories set in imaginary worlds. The final unit for the term will focus on poetry and creating images. Our weekly spelling test and our Library session will be on Tuesdays.

In Maths, we will be looking at place value, reading and writing numbers, ordering and rounding numbers, extending the number line to negative numbers and starting to use decimals. We will consolidate and extend their written and mental strategies for addition and subtraction to solve problems in context. We will also be investigating two dimensional and three dimensional shapes. The girls will look at how to interpret and present data in a variety of ways and fractions will be revisited by looking at fractions of shapes and how to work out the fraction of an amount. There will be regular times tables and mental arithmetic tests.

In History, the girls will be studying the Norman invasion of 1066. A discussion around who they think should have been the legitimate king will take place, enhanced by role play activities. The subsequent events will be looked at using different sources, including the Bayeux tapestry. The unit ends with a look at Motte and Bailey castles and the Domesday Book. This History unit is linked to our Geography on Village Settlers, in which the girls will investigate the development of settlements, from the earliest stages until the modern day. We will also be looking at the links we have with the past through place names and location.

In Science, the girls will spend the first half term learning about the topic 'Rocks and Soils'. In this topic, they will investigate the profile of different soils, drawing scientific diagrams and tables to record their findings. They will carry out experiments to investigate the properties of different soils and discuss why different soils are used for different purposes. We will then move on to looking at rocks, learning about the composition and creation of rocks and discovering how fossils are made. After half term, we will be focusing on 'Light', investigating the differences between translucent, transparent and opaque objects. We will be looking at how we see things with the help of different light sources and we will finish the term learning about reflection and how this is used in everyday life. Throughout the term we will try to support our learning by carrying out practical activities and controlled experiments in order to make our learning more significant.

Music lessons this term will focus on the musical exploration of 'Sir Eglamore and the dragon'. We will use the words of the song as a way of exploring the Medieval story and through discussions interpret the story and the important themes within it. We will use this piece in order to explore a range of musical ideas and apply our own creative additions. We will be using a variety of non-tuned and tuned percussion instruments as well as our own voices to create a musical interpretation of this exciting story.

Investigating ideas of storytelling and illustration will form a focus across the subject areas of Art, Design and Technology throughout the term. A trip to Kew Gardens will provide the opportunity to explore Art in Nature and will provide a cross curricular link to our study of the Rainforests later in the year. Studying a variety of imagery, including the Bayeux tapestry, will give us the opportunity to identify elements of narrative, pattern and design. Developing our work across different mediums, the girls will work with clay to reinforce our understanding of shape and texture. Sketchbook work will continue to underpin the development of our ideas and creative self-expression.

This 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, we will then discuss what they have learnt. The girls will then plan and create a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrating their Online Safety knowledge. They will be adding images, hyperlinks and thinking about ways to improve the appearance of their presentation.

The girls will continue to learn French via 'Tout le Monde', an exciting course with lots of interactive whiteboard activities. We will be revising and learning new vocabulary and skills in the following areas: Family members and hobbies, rooms in the house and prepositions. This year, the girls will have a small exercise book for vocabulary as well as the usual Tout Le Monde worksheets.

In Latin, we will be using the popular Minimus course, which follows the adventures of a small mouse and the human family he shares a home with, at Vindolanda, during the time of the Roman occupation of Britain at the beginning of the second century AD. We will meet the family, find out about Roman food and learn about nouns and adjectives along the way.

In PE, Form IV will play netball, interspersed once a month with cross country and orienteering, as well as hockey for the first half of the term, with lacrosse for the second half. The girls will also be swimming at Rothamsted Pool on Wednesday mornings this term. Netball club is open to Form IV on a Thursday evening from 3.45pm until 5.00pm, which changes to 4.30pm after half term due to lack of light.

In the first half of term, we will be studying Judaism in RE lessons, with specific reference to the relationship between Jews and God. In the second half of term, we explore the Nativity story and will investigate the most important part of this for Christians today.

In PSHCE, the girls will be thinking about:

- setting goals; how to face challenges
- feelings and emotions and the strategies for dealing with them
- sensitivity towards the feelings of others
- expressing opinions and appreciating the opinions of others
- Safety - awareness of risk and danger. Visit to Hazard Alley in September- details to follow in a separate letter.
- Road Safety

This term in Drama we will be looking at space and staging in Drama, moving onto a classroom project. Then we will study: "A Donkey to Market" – a Cambodian version, Aesop's Fable – The Miller and The Donkey, reading/preparing/researching/rehearsing/performing a script, looking at Plot and Setting and introducing the style of Promenade Theatre.

Trips

We have two school trips this term, firstly to Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes on Tuesday 19th September, which is an interactive safety centre with role play and scenarios set up to aid discussion in PSHEC. We will also be going to Kew Gardens on Wednesday 11th October as part of the science and art curriculum.

I would be most appreciate if you could always include myself in emails so that I am also aware of any matters relating to the girls: rsuch@sthildasharpenden.co.uk. All pastoral matters should be relayed to me in the first instance, not to subject staff.

The girls in Form IV have a busy and exciting term ahead and I wish them all a happy and successful start to the new academic year.

Kind regards,

Mrs R Such