



## FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form IV : Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all had a lovely holiday and your girls have recharged their batteries ready for an exciting and busy term ahead!

In English, we will begin the term by looking at stories which raise issues and dilemmas. This will be followed by persuasive texts when we will be evaluating adverts. During our next unit on poetry, the girls will analyse and write poems, experimenting with different styles and structures and examine how writers use figurative and expressive language to create images and atmosphere. Towards the end of the term the girls will be applying their writing skills and producing an extended story.

In Maths we will be covering a range of topics to broaden and extend the girls' mathematical skills and knowledge. There will be continued emphasis on problem solving and application of their understanding, as well as consolidation of the four operations. Times tables and number facts should be practised at home regularly to ensure quick recall. We will continue with regular mental arithmetic activities.

In Science, the girls will begin the term by studying the Solar System, focusing on the Earth's place and movement within our Solar System. They will use a mixture of research and model making to support their learning in this area. Later on in the term, the girls will be investigating feeding relationships, how they occur in different habitats and the impact that the environment can have on the survival of living things. Whilst studying these topics, they will be improving their scientific skills by carrying out experiments and studying data provided by others.

Our History topic this term is the Tudors, during which we will be studying various aspects of everyday life in Tudor times, as well as learning about Henry VIII and the dissolution of the monasteries.

In RE, we will be continuing our study of Judaism, with specific reference to the way they show commitment to God. In the second half of the term, we will explore Christianity. We will consider whether Christians need to attend Church in order to show their commitment to God.

In Geography, the girls will study Tropical Rainforests. They will look at where rainforests are located, what they look like, who lives there, problems of deforestation and how they can be sustained. A closer study of a tribe living in Brazil gives the girls a chance to view climate biodiversity from different viewpoints. Once again, there will be opportunities for cross-curricular work in Art.

In Art, a look at portraiture in cross-curricular study with History will focus on the Tudors and show how artists not only tried to capture a likeness of their sitters, but also sought to describe their personality and interests. The girls will compose their own portraits with these ideas in mind, practising their observational skills, but also looking for drama and meaning.

The design and creation of a fabric bag will enable the girls to consider various aspects of use, such as purpose, decoration and strength, while continuing to build on prior design and technology skills. Using cross-curricular links in Geography and the subject of the Rainforest, we shall look at masks and their use in disguise. The girls will be creating their own masks, developing practical skills in manipulating different materials for their expressive qualities. The use of sketchbooks and ICT to research and develop ideas will underpin the girls' practical work, with photography used to record and adapt images.

In Computing during the Summer Term the girls will be introduced to the coding program Scratch. The girls will learn how to create animations and games using code. The girls will be encouraged to check their code for errors and correct it when necessary.

In French, the girls will continue to learn more holiday and travel vocabulary, as well as town vocabulary and compass directions. They will learn how to say what they like and don't like doing in town.

In Latin, the girls will be learning about life for the Britons under Roman rule and learning about adverbs.

In PSHCE, we will be discussing elections and voting systems, as well as thinking about e-safety, healthy relaxation and spending money wisely. We will also be thinking about the different life styles of people in rich and poor countries.

In PE, Form IV will be doing athletics and rounders, swimming in the school pool, synchronised swimming and life saving skills. This term, teams will be selected for ISA athletics in Bedford and District athletics in Harpenden.

There will be two Exam Weeks this term commencing on Tuesday 14th May and ending on Friday 25th May. Once finalised, the girls will be given a timetable detailing which exams they will be doing on each day.

Homework for Maths and English this term will be given out on Wednesdays to be returned by Friday. Our weekly spelling test will continue to be on Wednesday. I will not be setting the usual homework for Maths and English until after the exams to enable the girls to have more time for revision.

Please continue to check and sign your daughter's homework diary and initial each time they read at home. I would be grateful if you could check that your daughter has all of the necessary kit and equipment to start the term, including a fully stocked pencil case.

In anticipation of sunny weather this term, may I remind you to send a school sun hat in with your daughter. I would also encourage the girls to bring in a small recyclable water bottle that can be kept in their school bag. This ensures that the girls drink regularly and saves us a lot of time going up and down the stairs! Please do not send in large bottles that are difficult to keep in the bags or that leak.

I look forward to a fun-filled and productive term with Form IV!

Kind regards,

Mrs Weir