



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form IV : Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! All the girls came in with bright smiling faces making it a wonderful beginning to the term. There are a few exciting trips planned for this term which I am sure will excite the children and enhance their learning. We will be beginning to learn some Non-Verbal Reasoning techniques which can be challenging, but also a lot of fun.

In English, we are using picture books and poetry to base our writing on. We begin with our advanced picture books, *Varmints* and *Weslandia* where we will be writing from different perspectives, with a particular emphasis on non-fiction writing. We will continue to build upon our descriptive writing skills developed in the Autumn Term and do some writing with links across the curriculum. The second half of the term will be focussed on writing and performing our own different poems based upon ones we analyse in class. We will be covering haiku, kennings, cinquains and narrative poems. We will be finishing our class novel *Wonder* and be moving onto *The Firework Maker's Daughter* after the half term.

In Maths, we are going to consolidate and deepen the girls' ability to understand, manipulate and use of number strategies. We will be continuing to learn about different units of measurement and how to convert between them, including time. We will begin to deepen our knowledge of fractions and decimals as well as geometry before applying our skills in a variety of different contexts. Times tables and number skills, along with mental arithmetic, will provide a strong foundation for learning and maths in Form IV so they will feature in most lessons and in homework most weeks.

In Science, Form IV will be revising their knowledge of major organs before moving on to study various organs in more detail. They will focus on the circulatory and respiratory systems, learning about the path the blood takes through the body, pulse rate and the effects of exercise. Then they will move on to study the three states of matter, investigating changes of state and learning about melting and boiling points. The girls will relate their learning to everyday life and will be carrying out as much practical work as possible to consolidate their knowledge.

In History, the girls will find out about the way of life of people living in Ancient Egypt from archaeological discoveries. They will develop their understanding of characteristic features of a society; identify the different ways the past is represented; and use sources of information to make simple observations, inferences and deductions. We will look at how pyramids were built, what the Ancient Egyptians did with their dead, how a Pharaoh ruled, who Tutankhamen was, in addition to farming and the importance of the River Nile. There are an abundance of good internet sites for children on these topics such as www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egypt and www.ancientegypt.co.uk. If you are planning a trip to London, the British Museum is well worth a visit as is the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge if you wish to consolidate the learning experience following our trip on 14th February.

For the final few weeks of the term, Form IV will engage in Outdoor Learning. During this time, our lessons on a Thursday afternoon will take place outside in the school grounds or the local area. We will work collaboratively to problem-solve a range of challenges.

In Music this term, we will be investigating the use of motif as a compositional tool. We will be looking at how composers develop motifs and attempting to recreate this in our own composition. Our ensemble performances will also feature this technique. Please could you send in a (book style) A4 folder to keep work safe and be used when rehearsing.

Our class concert will be at 9.15 on Wednesday 13th February - we hope you'll be able to join us! More information will be sent out a fortnight beforehand.

In Art, we will begin the term with a look at how artists have managed to capture light and tone in still life. We will be developing our own artworks in response to this.

Later in the term we will be looking at the art of the Ancient Egyptians and their use of colour, symbols and meaning. We will be looking at surface decoration, experimenting with painting on papyrus, and creating our own Ancient Egyptian inspired artworks and sculptures.

Our focus in the second half of the term will be art from another culture. We will be looking at Japanese art in a cross curricular link with English and using a range of materials to construct simple Japanese kites.

The use of sketchbooks to research and develop ideas and the use of photography and ICT to record and adapt images will underpin the girls' practical work.

In Computing, the first half of term the girls will recap the online safety skills learnt in the Autumn Term. They will learn email using the school email system. The skills they will learn include logging on, sending emails, adding attachments, replying to emails and writing informal and formal emails. In the second half of the term they will be introduced to spreadsheet modelling. They will become familiar with spreadsheet terminology and how to enter data, check for errors and create simple graphs for analysis. The girls will learn how to use simple formulae and apply their skills and knowledge to a class party challenge.

In PE, the focus this term will be netball, hockey and lacrosse, plus cross country and orienteering once a month. On Wednesday mornings instead of swimming, the girls will be learning Kapa Haka - a type of traditional New Zealand dance.

In RE, we will be continuing our study of Judaism, with specific reference to the importance of Jews doing as they are asked by God. In the second half of term, we will explore the Easter story and answer the question 'is forgiveness always possible?'

In PSHCE, we will continue to explore the meaning of friendship: how to cope with peer pressure, how to value and celebrate difference in others, as well as how to give and receive praise. We will be discussing the issues involved in owning a pet and how to make responsible choices. In Citizenship, the girls will be thinking about basic human rights.

In French, we will be learning vocabulary for rooms in a house, furniture, travel and holidays, as well as continuing to enjoy stories and songs. We will be using prepositions and continuing to learn phrases which are followed by the infinitive form of the verb (for example, Je voudrais - I would like to).

In Latin, the girls are working enthusiastically with the Minimus course. This term, we will be finishing our work on nouns and adjectives, as well as finding out about slaves and education in Roman times and learning about Latin verbs!

Homework for Maths and English this term will be given out on Thursdays to be returned by Monday. Spelling will be sent out every Monday and tested each Friday. 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 and make sure everything is named.

Should you need to contact me with regards to your daughter, please do so initially via email on khumphris@sthildasharpden.co.uk.

Kind regards,

Miss Humphris