



FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Form IV : Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and very best wishes for 2018!

I hope you have had a good break and the girls are refreshed and ready to start the new term! I am very pleased to be taking on the role of form teacher for the girls and I am looking forward to an exciting term ahead!

The Spring Term promises to be a busy and exciting one, full of new challenges and exciting topics. We will endeavour to continue with a similar homework routine to last term, with one alteration being that weekly the spelling test will now take place on a Wednesday. Please continue using the diaries to record reading and to write down any brief messages for me or comments regarding your daughter.

This term has many enrichment activities to stimulate and inspire the girls. As part of their curriculum studies, the girls will be going to the Fitzwilliam Museum on Wednesday 10th January. On Wednesday 28th February you are invited to attend the Form IV Class Music Concert and on Friday 9th March, we have our Form IV Class Assembly which you are very welcome to come and watch.

English

Our first unit in English deals with information texts. We will be using our history topic on the Ancient Egyptians to produce our own information texts including various prominent features of non-fiction writing. Grammar will include: writing sentences in first and third person; using powerful verbs; fronted adverbials and how to use commas after a phrase, the correct punctuation for direct speech; being able to use the present perfect verb form and understanding the use of apostrophes for contraction and possession, along with the related rules. We will continue with weekly spelling tests, guided reading and comprehension tasks, grammar, punctuation and handwriting activities.

Our novel for this term is 'My Friend Walter' by Michael Morpurgo and I am confident that Form IV will thoroughly enjoy this action packed adventure that cleverly weaves an Elizabethan event with modern times in Devon. A copy of the text will be provided during the first full week of teaching.

Maths

In Maths, we will be revising place value and investigating larger numbers. We will use symbols to compare numbers and consolidate our understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be looking at metric units of weight and linking this to work on fractions and decimals. Reading and recording time will be studied with a closer look at am/pm notations, followed by revision of two and three dimensional shapes before investigating their symmetry and looking at concave and convex shapes. We will spend time consolidating our understanding of times tables and working on mental and written calculation methods and putting this into practice through problem solving. Towards the end of the term we will be building upon our knowledge of handling data.

History

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 is an abundance of good internet sites for children on these topics such as www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egypt_and 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 10th January.

Geography

In Geography, the girls will build on their learning from the previous term about the development of settlements. This term they will compare villages in the United Kingdom to those in less economically developed countries. This unit is based on a photo-pack and DVD produced by Action Aid about the village of Chembakoli, a village in India.

Science

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.

Music

In Music this term, the girls will be learning to play the Bamboo Tamboo. We will be exploring the history of this instrument; where it has originated from and why. We will also be learning how to play the Bamboo Tamboo; using a variety of different rhythmic patterns. We will be learning a mixture of pieces that we will perform as a class. The girls will also have the opportunity to create their own rhythmic idea. The Form IV Class Concert is on Wednesday 28th February, starting at 9:15am. The girls will be preparing musical repertoire for this event and you are very welcome to attend.

Art and Design

Form IV begin the term by investigating 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. We will continue to explore shape by using silhouettes in our painting; the creation of shadow puppets will also enable us to reinforce our understanding of both spatial illusion and the effects of light and shade. We will experiment with different materials in Design and Technology later in the term when we create our "junk orchestra" with cross-curricular links to Geography and History.

Computing

In 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.

PE

In PE, the focus this term will be netball and trampolining. During the first half of the term, the girls will be attending trampoline lessons on Thursday afternoons at Princess Helena College. They will return to school in time for normal collection at the end of the day.

PSHCE

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.

French

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).

Latin

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!

Should you need to contact me regarding your daughter please do so initially via email

rweir@sthildasharpندن.co.uk

Please can you take this opportunity to ensure that your daughter has a fully stocked pencil case and check that their uniform, Drama and PE kits are clearly labelled.

Kind regards,

Mrs Weir