



Spring Curriculum Newsletter

Key Dates and Important messages

- Continue to look at the weekly bulletin to see when the parents SATs meetings and workshops are taking place
- Pupils will be visiting Slough Baptist Church again for an 'Easter Cracked' workshop on Monday 18th March
- Please continue to keep up to date with payments for the residential trip. The remaining two payments are due by Tuesday 5th February and Tuesday 5th March
- Look at the school websites for Maths videos which explain calculations your child may find difficult

Talk for writing

We will be focusing on fiction at the start of this term and the children will be planning and developing their own suspense story. They will be including a range of sentence structures and descriptive techniques such as simile, metaphor and personification. At the end of the term the children will learn about adverts and how to persuade their reader using various techniques.

How you can help

Children must practise their spellings every day at home for their spelling tests.

Good readers make good writers so please continue to read with your children for 40 minutes every day.

Maths Mastery

We will be learning about shape, angles and coordinates at the start of this term. We will then move onto decimals and measures. Children must know various conversions off by heart to help them with their work at school e.g. 1000g = 1kg

How you can help

Ensure your child is going on Mathletics and test them on their timetables facts every day. They have a timed 'Cracking Timetables' test every week.

PSHE and RE

This term will be launching our new approach to PSHE: Jigsaw. This programme is designed to work alongside the national curriculum's key objective with the core element of mindfulness.

How you can help

Please ensure your child knows how to be safe online.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Enquiry curriculum

Our topic this term is 'The Greatest Scientist', hence our trip to The Natural History Museum. The children will learn about fossilisation, evolution, electricity and light and pioneering Scientists in each field (including Mary Anning, Charles Darwin, Thomas Edison and Sir Isaac Newton).

How you can help

We will shortly be sending out a topic homework web. Please support your child in selecting and completing homework assignments on time.

Our school development priorities

Reading



This year we are continuing to focus on reading to ensure that our children are skilled, confident and enthusiastic readers. As you know, reading is a vital skill for our children to develop; it ensures their success in all other areas of the curriculum.

In daily guided reading lessons we develop the children's comprehension skills: their understanding of what they read. When they are reading at home every day, it is useful to question your child about what they are reading so that they can practise their comprehension skills. If you would like more guidance on what questions to ask, please talk to your child's teacher.

We are also focussing on developing children's vocabularies. Please ask your child what new words they have learnt each day.

We want every child to love reading. To encourage children to explore different books, our librarian has recently ordered some exciting new non-fiction books, classic novels, picture books and graphic novels. We are also organising some fun events for everyone in the whole school community to get involved in enjoying reading and celebrating books.

Health and well-being As you are aware, we as a school are committed in developing our children to not only become lifelong learners but people who are healthy both in mind and body. For this reason, we have now agreed to be part of a programme called 'Active Movement', which is focussed on encouraging children to be just a little bit more active in the day, such as stand up to answer, move around the class when saying their times tables and just be a little bit more active as part of their everyday lessons. In addition to this children will be going on walks around the school (you will see the posters around the school) and enjoying the lovely site we have. As well as exercising, it is imperative we teach our children how to eat healthily, as habits are formed very early in life. Hence we have put together a healthy eating policy which can be accessed on the school website or from the school office. We talk to children about their mental well-being in school and have worry boxes for them to share their anxieties or concerns with their teachers. To help your children at home, encourage your children to share what they did at school, any concerns they had or things they are excited about.



Problem solving

In addition to their normal maths lesson, the children also have a Maths Meet, in which they share and recap previous learning, practising and refining skills which have already been taught. This daily revisit enables the muscle memory to remember the mathematical concepts and become embedded. Timetables are also something which will be remembered if you practise daily. Please support your child at home with this as often as you can, a great website is <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

To enable your children to become problem solvers, why not give them real –life problems to solve where they can practise and apply their maths learning. For example asking them to work out how many minutes or hours till the bus arrives, the change given in the shop, how many ingredients you need if you double the quantity.

Every child has a login to Mathletics, which is a great website to support your child in all areas of Maths.



<http://uk.mathletics.com/>