

# Class Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Term! I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas break. We look forward to the New Year in Giraffes class and more daylight hours!

We are just embarking on our next topic for the term, 'A Capital Idea'. This is an exciting topic that the children will enjoy. We begin in the first half term looking at London long ago, some of its characters and in particular the Great Fire of London. Next half term we will look more at the modern landscape of the capital, London art and landmarks and the geographical impact of traffic and tourism.



Our homework grid is designed to support this learning.

## What else are we learning?

In **English** we will work on all our reading and writing skills through a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry, often linked to the London theme in keeping with our topic, including looking at the famous diarist, Samuel Pepys. We will focus particularly on improving our writing by using the correct tense, using adjectives and adverbs and adding interest to the reader.

In **Maths** the children will extend their previous learning and develop their understanding of place value to perform more complex calculations. We will also look at multiplication and division, and fractions. Times tables tests are going well with some children showing a real improvement in their knowledge. Please keep up the good work practising at home.

In **Science** we will look at materials, classifying and sorting by type and describing their properties. We are going to be exploring their different uses and whether they are waterproof, magnetic, and buoyant and so on. This will link to our topic work on materials used in construction.

**Computing** will be a continuing progression of skills-based learning. The children will gain an understanding of algorithms and sequences of instructions to create simple programs and computer games use logical reasoning. They are encouraged to think critically about computer games and their use be aware of how to use games safely and in balance with other activities.

In **RE** we are learning about how we care for others. This will examine how these questions are approached by different faiths as well as asking the children to be self-reflective in their own thoughts. The second half term will look in greater depth at Christianity.

**PSHCE** begins with keeping safe: safe and unsafe secrets, appropriate touch, and medicine safety. Next half term we look at rights and responsibilities: cooperation, self-regulation, online safety, and looking after money – saving and spending.

In **Music** we learn to play using tuned percussion, using letter notation to write a melody. Then through a space theme, developing knowledge and understanding of dynamics, timbre, tempo and instruments and earning to compose and play motifs.

**PE** will begin with a dance unit based on the Great Fire of London. The children will learn to respond imaginatively to a variety of stimuli and to perform with control and co-ordination. We will also continue to develop our ball skills and tactical thinking through games.

## PE

Please can everyone check that PE kits have been returned to school for the second half term, and that outdoor trainers/ plimsolls still fit.  
Please note all long hair must be tied back for PE **and no jewellery should be worn.**

## IMPROVING OUR WRITING

The children are continuing to work hard at their joined handwriting and overall neatness of presentation.  
We are particularly aiming for the children to be able to write at more length as they enter this term. A skill we need to focus on is to be able to construct a story with a beginning, middle and end. So, encouragement of fun activities such as making up stories to tell younger brothers and sisters, and also writing journals and diaries, creating comic strips etc. is a valued way that you can continue to support your child's learning at home.