

Summer Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I ended my last newsletter with the statement “**Roll on 2020!!**”, I am feeling rather different about that statement now as, I am sure, so are many of you.

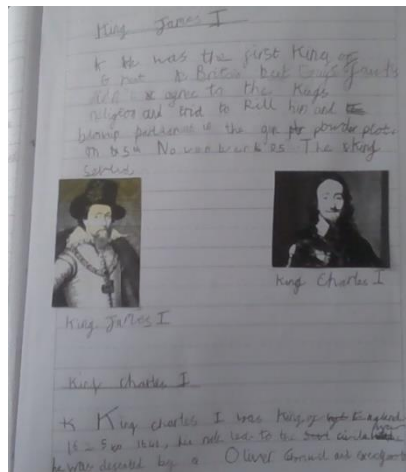
So much has changed in the last term that our learning methods are unrecognisable. However, I feel we are rising to the challenge and finding the things that work for us. I am confident this attitude will continue into this term.

Over the term I will be continuing to post my reading videos, little creative bits and tutorial videos. Hopefully this will provide information on how to tackle problems as well as offering some different kinds of activities.

This term we will also be trying out a new method of communication called Showbie. This is an online tool that will allow the children to login and view their work remotely. This should replace the need to look up a hundred different things on Dojo and print loads of things out. This is an app that can be downloaded to any device or accessed via the web on a computer. The children will receive a code to access their class and view assignments for the day. They will then be able to submit this work through Showbie. In the first week we will send work both through Showbie and Dojo but will move to Showbie from the second week.

Spring Review

Even with all the changes of last term the children worked extremely hard. During the last term they wrote their own stories, tested and investigated materials, designed their own coat of arms and began creating their own song. Here are a few pics of what they got upto.



Summer term sneaky peaks

The summer term holds many exciting new learning opportunities ahead for the children, albeit in a different fashion. The term will be split into two topics, the first is an around the world geography topic and the second is looking at the coast and the seaside. We will be using several new books to supplement our topic learning this term and I will post a video introducing these soon. In English, we will be looking at different aspects of the topic and using these to create some written pieces based on the knowledge from the past two topics.

In Geography, the children will be extending their knowledge from what we learned with Shackleton and will be looking at hotter climates as opposed to colder climates. We will recap the points of the compass and I will show how to make your own compass (as the one we did earlier in the year didn't work too well). We will be looking at our local geography and comparing this to that of another country, namely China. We will also investigate the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. The children will also be able to look at maps and aerial photographs to supplement their knowledge.

Science moves to look at plants in the first half term. The children will be able to see how different plants grow, they will look at what they need to survive and see the consequences if they don't get these things. There will be chances to do their own investigations but if the resources are not available at home, I have videos to supplement the learning.

Music lessons will be available through our music scheme Charanga. This is an online resource that will be available to everyone. I will be sending out the user names and passwords via Dojo so that it can be accessed. Once on, the children will be able to access the series of lessons like we would have done in class. These begin with the appraisal of different songs (within the theme of friendship). They then move onto some flexible games looking at their knowledge of beat and rhythm and finally conclude with a performance of the song. I will put out ideas to go with these lessons in the daily plan.

Reading

As always, the children are encouraged to read as much as possible. Thoughts are still being exchanged on how to swap school books but this is ongoing. I would suggest just reading and talking about different books, using a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry and just enjoying the language around the books you have at home. This will hold as much value as reading the school books, particularly if you find a theme that your child is interested in.

PE

PE suggestions will be put out on the daily plans as before Easter. However, this could also include going for a walk or a run, skipping in the garden, playing a ball game in the garden or designing your own game that could be played with others.

Anything that gets the heart rate going will be a good form of exercise and can be done everyday if need be.

Please remember to be kind to yourselves, we understand the challenges of this time and the different expectations and strains. In the last couple of weeks of last term, we could all see the resilience and perseverance of both the children and yourselves to try and make this work as best we can.

As before, we will check in regularly to make sure everything is going ok and to answer any questions. Meanwhile, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for your support,

Mr Thomson