



Curriculum Newsletter

Summer 2009

This term is always a busy one as we have to fit many sporting events in around preparation for SATs and Optional SATs. This term we are planning to have a focus on the Arts subjects and we hope you will be able to join us to celebrate our many achievements in this area during the evening of 1st July. Children from Saturn, Mercury and Neptune Classes will be visiting Banbury Museum to work with a costume designer. They will be working with fabrics in a workshop entitled 'Patterns in Nature'. The outcomes from this visit will be on display during our celebration evening. More information to follow soon.

I would be most interested to hear from any of you who might be able to come along and demonstrate a particular artistic skill or talent involving any medium or if you know of any local artists in the area who might be persuaded to run a workshop in school for us. We are planning a week of art activities from 22nd to 26th June. I look forward to hearing from you with any offers.

Our whole school theme for our connected curriculum this term is 'Dreams' and there follows a brief summary of how this is interpreted in each class. We hope you will be able to use this information to support your children's learning at home.

Jupiter



Jupiter are all reflective this term with a theme of dreams and prayer. As well as preparing Molee (the class toy) for his trip to the Galapagos Islands by providing him with a handbook of information and handy trips. We will also be comparing the Galapagos to the United Kingdom. The role play area has been

transformed into an oasis of calm and a place for quiet contemplation, where unkind thoughts are thrown in the bin and kind thoughts are celebrated. In the outdoor area we will be making quiet sounds with instruments and things you can find in the environment in our Teepee tent. We will also be blowing bubbles to make wishes and follow our dreams. Using dreams as a theme we shall be listening to, reading and writing fantasy stories. We shall be thinking and finding out about our own personal history and collecting our memories.

Don't forget our class assembly on Friday 22nd May at ten past nine.

In Mathematics we will be focusing on addition and subtraction using number lines (Reception) and addition and subtraction by breaking down the second number into tens and units. (Year 1)

To get you in the mood for the term try thinking of small things we can do to make the world a better place.

Saturn

This term our connected curriculum theme is dreams and Saturn will be exploring Australia and Aboriginal Art, which combines Geography, History, Art and DT. Some of the skills that the children will focus on will be to identify obstacles or problems in learning and listening appropriately to others.

R.E will focus on The Torah and hopefully Saturn will have the opportunity to visit a Synagogue in Northampton later this term.

In Numeracy the children will be working on more formal written calculations for all the four operations and Literacy will look at instructions.

Saturn will also be learning and helping to choreograph a dance to Dancing Queen from Mamma Mia for the summer fayre. Saturn have also been given the opportunity to go to Banbury museum in June to do some art.

There will be lots of sporting activities over the next few weeks so please could you make sure that Saturn have their games/P.E. kit in school all week. Thank you.

Venus

In Literacy this term we are covering, Stories set in imaginary worlds, Information texts, Stories which raise issues/dilemmas and Explanation texts. Stories set in imaginary worlds-In this unit the children will develop their use of different settings and build on organising texts into paragraphs.

Information texts- This unit prepares for factual research by reviewing what is known, what is needed, what is available and where one might search. The children will use dictionaries and thesaurus to locate and sequence words in alphabetical order.

Stories which raise issues/dilemmas- In this unit the children will read short stories that raise issues or dilemmas. They will summarise the key points in each paragraph to produce an outline of the story structure. Children will explore their ideas through drama and discussion.

Explanation Texts -In this unit the children will read and analyse explanatory texts to identify key features. They will distinguish between explanatory texts, reports and recounts while recognising that an information book might contain examples of all these forms of text.

In Mathematics we will be covering counting, partitioning and calculating money, numbers and measures. The children will also collect, organise and interpret selected information to find answers. Also the children will learn how to report solutions to puzzles and problems, giving explanations and reasoning orally and in writing, using diagrams and symbols.

In Science, we are covering two units: Solids and Liquids and Friction.

Solids and Liquids-The children will learn about the differences between solids and liquids and recognise that the same material can exist as both solid and liquid. They identify changes that occur when solids and liquids are mixed.

Friction-This unit focuses on friction as a force which exists between objects moving across solid surfaces and opposes motion, and the forces of air resistance and water resistance which oppose the motion of objects moving through air and water.

In History the children will be studying the Celts with Mrs. Deakin.

In Geography, Art, DT, ICT and Music these subjects have a common theme of "The Water of Life".

Mercury

In the Literacy Lessons the children will look at stories based on Africa and in particular South African culture. This will connect with the Geography work the children are doing based on researching South Africa. During this work we are hoping they will continue to link with a Primary School in South Africa, which will use the children's ICT skills. At the end of this project they will put together a presentation to share their findings and demonstrate all they have learned during the year in Multimedia presentations. Later in the term in Literacy we will be completing work on researching and creating their own recounts focusing on the difference between 'fact' and 'opinion'. Maths will see a range of concepts being covered to include work on calculation, number patterns and problem solving.

There has been a change to the Science lessons and now we will be investigating Changing Sounds and then moving on to Changing States.

Using the theme of 'Dreams' the children will be focusing on Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat in Music. This will connect with their work in Art and PSHE, some of which will be the focus for our sharing Assembly. In their RE lessons the children will have the opportunity to study Buddhism.

Neptune

The theme for the term is Dreams. The theme will be explored predominately through Literacy and will link with other curriculum areas supporting the idea of dreams.

In **Literacy** the children will be concentrating on the transition unit with Spone based on Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. In this story a father has a love of dingy sailing on the local reservoir. When he and his wife are made redundant from the local brickworks he sells everything to try and fulfil his dream of a round the world voyage on a sailing boat. He sets sail with his wife, son and their black and white sheep dog called Stella Artois from Southampton. The following voyage leads to many adventures for his son Michael.

The children will keep a reading journal charting recording their reaction to the story, they will write a series of postcards from Michael to friends back home as well as recording the adventures of the voyage.

The book will also provide opportunities for work in other curriculum areas:

Science, some further work on forces looking at sails and sailing boats.

Geography, looking at the route of the voyage and the countries they stop at.

History, studying some of the aspects of World War II, Michael meets a Japanese soldier!

Art in the form of making fish that Michael sees on the voyage.

Design Technology, looking at boat design and making some of our own boats from balsa, then testing them for seaworthiness.

In **Mathematics** the children will develop and extend their knowledge of the four operations within problem solving, the use of standard metric measures and conversions between units and to tabulate systematically information within a problem or a puzzle.

Year 6 will also be very busy learning dances for the Maypole to be performed at the Summer Fayre. They will also prepare work to take across to Spone on their Transition Days later in the summer. Then they will be working on their leavers' assembly, busily learning lines and songs as well as producing scenery.