

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you've had a good summer holiday and are ready for a busy term ahead!

Our topic for this term is the Savannah and Plains, and as usual this will be taught in a cross-curricular manner. We will be looking at the different habitats of Africa as well as the animals that live there and how they communicate and behave. We will be taking a trip to Colchester Zoo to study the African animals during this month (details to follow) and carrying out some exciting post trip work to make the most of this opportunity. English will see us studying stories with familiar settings as well as looking at poetry and writing recounts. Phonics and reading comprehension will continue as a daily focussed session as well as weekly spellings for the children to learn. In art we will be carrying out Aboriginal stick painting and studying the work of Queenie McKenzie.

Our science unit this term is 'animals including humans'; looking at how humans change as they grow. We will also be looking at healthy and unhealthy food where the children will be asked to keep a food diary. Maths this term will focus on key areas: number work, place value, addition, subtraction and shape work. We will be using and applying our mathematic skills through practical activities. Homework will continue to be set through the online My Maths scheme which is proving to be very beneficial to the children's progress. English homework will be set weekly in the homework books on Thursday, due in the following Tuesday.

Your child will soon have an updated timetable in their planner, please share this to enable your child to arrive in school well-equipped for the day ahead. PE kit will be needed for Mondays and Fridays and kit should remain in school. The children will be learning Tai Chi and then practising their dance routines for the Nativity. Children will be using instruments in music to create rhythms; singing to Baba Yetu and also learning Frere Jacques with the ocarina – this needs to be in school with the book on Mondays.

PSHE this term will focus on 'me and my healthy lifestyle' as well as 'making a positive contribution'. In RE we will be looking at Buddhist and Christian celebrations. Our Collective Worship starts with the theme of Friendship.

In addition to homework, support with daily reading and phonics is incredibly valuable. Please use your time together in this activity to ask questions about the text as well as reading aloud and decoding.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Temple-Nidd