

Cavendish Church of England Primary School

Information for Parents
Autumn Term 2018



Victorian Democracy
and Social Change

Mrs Reynolds
Neptune Class

Dear families,

Welcome back to a new term and a new school year. I am already very impressed with how hard children are working, having only just returned from their holidays.

Our topic for this term is Victorian democracy and social change, and as usual this will be taught in a cross-curricular manner. We will be looking at the variety of pivotal events and discoveries including the cholera outbreak on Broad Street, Education and Reform acts, and daily life for different social classes. We will be cooking traditional Victorian food, studying the population changes in maths, and creating wallpaper inspired by the Pre-Raphaelites. This will include a visit to Audley End Victorian Kitchen. Literacy will see us looking at biographies and autobiographies, narrative poetry and 'A Christmas Carol' before studying dramatic conventions. Guided reading will be a weekly session on Friday mornings and the children will need to ensure that they have completed the required reading set the week before. Spelling, handwriting and grammar, as well as the overall presentation of the children's work will be a daily focus. As this will be the centenary of the end of the First World War, there will be a special Remembrance Service and the children in Neptune class will have the opportunity to research local heroes who lost their lives in this conflict. There will also be an exhibition of the children's art at the cathedral.

In our daily maths lessons, we will be working on place value, addition, subtraction, mixed operations, statistics, perimeter, area and volume. Children will gain confidence to work with increasingly larger numbers building on their learning from previous years. Our maths teaching will continue to build on teaching concepts, increasing fluency and developing mastery in each topic studied. We will be using and applying our mathematic skills through practical activities, formal written methods and mental maths skills. A special focus will be given to reasoning to learn to apply maths in meaningful ways. It is expected that all children in year 5 and 6 have recall of times tables up to 12 x 12 and associated division facts. The curriculum is written with this as a pre-requisite.

Our science this term looks at different forces and motion, before moving onto evolution and how animals have adapted to suit their environment. The children will learn to design practical investigations, encouraging children to draw conclusions and scientifically discuss and record their findings. This term we will be having an exciting DT afternoon in which we will be designing and building our own bridge, following in the footsteps of the great Victorian engineer, I K Brunel.

Your child has 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 Thursdays, but should remain in school. Please ensure children have warm outdoor clothing for this and robust footwear. Children will still continue with French and music and will require a recorder. As with all musical instruments, children will be given music to practise for a few minutes each day, and your support in encouraging them is much appreciated. After half-term, year 6 children will have Forest School on Tuesday afternoons and will need appropriate clothing; year 5 will have their Forest School sessions in the Spring Term.

PSHE this term will focus on children's role and rights in our community, before moving on to discuss democracy and the rule of law after half-term. In RE we will be looking at the enlightenment in Buddhism, before moving on to look at the gospel in Christianity. In Computing, we will be looking at programming, cracking codes, blogs and staying safe on the internet.

Homework for literacy, maths, topic, science and spellings will be set on Wednesdays, to be completed by the following Monday. In addition, support with daily reading is incredibly valuable. Please use your time together in this activity to ask questions about the text as well as reading aloud and decoding. We will continue to use the online maths resource "My Maths" via your child's log in details, however if you prefer your child to access online learning in school, laptops are available for use at daily lunchtime homework clubs. Finally, regular random testing of times tables will help support your child's maths learning.

I look forward to working with you, please do not hesitate to speak to me after school if you have any questions.

Mrs Reynolds