



Curriculum Newsletter

Miss McCullough's Class Autumn Term 2012!

Our Visual Literacy Theme is... 'Let's Build'

Our PE Day is

Friday (taught as two separate hour sessions)

Our Homework day is...

We set homework on a Friday and it needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday. In addition, the children will be given weekly spellings which are set on a Monday and tested on the following Monday. Weekly times tables tests will take place on a Friday during our weekly number skills session.



Mathematical Development

Maths is taught on a daily basis. We will be covering five units of work in the Autumn Term consisting of : A) Counting, partitioning and calculating. B) Securing number facts and understanding shape, C) Handling data and measures, D) Calculating, measuring and understanding shape, E) Securing number facts and calculating. The lessons are taught within a class setting but the children will be grouped according to their ability. The children will be expected to work both in a group and independently. There will be much of the teaching done using a range of teaching resources, with a large emphasis being on pencil paper procedures. The children in year 5 and 6 are taught a range of calculation methods, from which they need to be able to choose the method that works for them. A calculator is used as a checking tool in our number sessions and is useful for the children to have their own . A thorough knowledge of the times tables up to 12x12 is essential in order for the children to access the increasingly challenging topics that are taught. Any support that you are able to give to your child at home with the learning of the times tables would be a great benefit.

In order to aid / support homework for this term I am running an after school homework club for our year 6 class members on a Monday from 3.15pm to 4.15pm . The children can come along as and when they wish for any additional maths support or to have their homework explained in a more informal setting.

Communication Language and Literacy

This term's literacy work is taught with a whole school theme foundation of 'Let's Build'. We are aiming to instil excitement and a passion for reading and writing for all our pupils. We will be using a Lego theme day to base this term's work . We continue to use units of work from the Primary Framework to structure our lessons . We will be looking at a range of genres including: Instruction Writing, Recounts, Fiction Genres, The Power of Imagery in Poetry and Traditional stories.

To encourage our pupils to read for pleasure we have created a shared reading session within our weekly timetable. The children are invited to bring in any reading material they wish on a Tuesday. Here they can share texts with their class mates. (Some ideas: Joke books, football focus magazines, Group play scripts)

We continue to study French. The children have sessions taught on a weekly basis. We will be looking at basic French conversation where the children will learn to introduce themselves . We will begin to look at ways of asking for food in a French Café.

The class is timetabled for regular slots with the new laptops . We are now enjoying the benefits of having such a fantastic resource in school. They were a real hit with the children and have already enhanced the children's range of ways they can communicate their work,.

Physical Development

The children in year 5/6 have two hours of P.E. per week. The option of being either inside or outside will depend on the weather and the activity for any given lesson. A track suit or warm old jumper is a necessity at this time of the year. A plastic bag to put muddy trainers/boots into at the end of the lesson will keep the rest of the kit a little easier to wash.

The children will be undertaking units of work related to invasion games which include rugby, football and netball to mention a few. For health and safety reasons it is essential that girls with long hair have it tied up for all P.E. session. Please also remember that we discourage children wearing earrings on P.E. days.



Knowledge & Understanding of the World

Our science theme this term begins with looking at Forces. The children will be asked to apply their knowledge of a variety of forces, including magnetic attraction, gravitational attraction and friction. The children will learn about the changes in motion which occur when forces act on an object. In the second half term we will move on to look at Changing Circuits. Here the children will . The unit consolidates children's knowledge of materials which are electrical conductors, extends understanding of ways in which the brightness of bulbs or speed of motors in a circuit can be changed and develops children's understanding of the value of using conventional symbols for communication. In R.E. we continue to follow the Essex agreed syllabus with our work this term moving on to look at Islam. We will be looking at the Introduction to the Five Pillars of Islam . In history/geography we will be looking at famous buildings and land marks around the world. The children will be locating places like; The Eiffel Tower in Paris, The Colosseum in Rome, The Sultan Ahmed Mosque of Istanbul, plus many others. The children will look at the story of how the land marks were built and the impact they have had on the city and the people where they are located.

In ICT we will be looking at a unit of work called control and modelling. The children will be using our Bee Bots (A programmable floor robot) The children will be designing and making a town to navigate the robots around.

Creative Development

To go alongside our theme of let's Build ' We will be sketching famous landmarks around the world. We will be using Google maps to locate and see picture images to enhance our art work . In design and technology we will be designing our own buildings ready for our town for our robot.



In music we will be using the theme of 'Christmas Time' to compose Christmas songs . This will be completed in our class music week in December.

Personal, Social & Emotional

This is a vital area of the curriculum! Here we will be looking at ways we can establish our class as a team. We will be thinking about rules for our class and expectation we have of each other to ensure we have a fantastic academic year.



Other messages

Home/school diaries to be signed on a weekly basis keeping a dialogue between home and school as needed. The diary should be used to record your child's reading at home and any urgent messages for the school day.

There are a range of resources to help you help your child available on the school website.

Visit: www.holytrinityhalstead.com/helpingyourchild