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Dear Parents,

### Welcome to Class Budgerigar

Our first topic in class Budgerigar is *The Victorians*, which is a period of great change in Britain and makes for an exciting term.

In English, the children will write a biography on Queen Victoria, Lewis Carroll and Charles Darwin. They will write explanation texts on a Victorian inventor of their choice and non-chronological reports on the Industrial Revolution, workhouses, The British Empire and Victorian education. They will write instructions based on a DT stable structure design task, which will link to Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

As reading underpins all learning, the children will be expected to continue to read regularly and I ask you to support their learning by hearing them read and to discuss the books and their authors. They will need to continue to record their reading in their school reading journal so they can refer to it during reading conferences. This term we will be looking at a classic Victorian text, *Alice in Wonderland* and our writing tasks will be based on this story. In poetry, we will look at the poem *Jabberwocky* as well as haikus and cinquains. Our class book is Peter Bunzl's *Cogheart*, which is the first in a series and I may dip into *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell if there is time.

Spelling tests will take place on Thursdays and it would be helpful if you could encourage your child to explore the spelling patterns, rules and exceptions beyond the words set.

I have sent home a separate letter regarding this term's Let's Present, where the children have the opportunity to present their research on a famous Victorian invention/inventor.

In Mathematics, the main areas covered will be:

#### Place value

- rounding, adding and subtracting numbers to the powers of 10 up to 10000000;
- negative numbers through 0;
- Roman numerals;
- reading, writing and comparing numbers up to 10 000 000
- word and practical maths problems.

#### Addition and subtraction:

- Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers;
- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than 4 digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction).

#### Multiplication and division

- Multiply and divide whole numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.



- Multiply numbers up to 6 digits by a one or two digit number using a formal written method, including long multiplication for 2 digit numbers.
- Divide numbers up to 6 digits by a one digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context.
- Identify multiples and factors, including finding all factor pairs of a number, and common factors of two numbers.
- Recognise and use square numbers and cube numbers and the notation for squared (2) and cubed (3)

### **Fractions**

- Use common factors to simplify fractions; use common multiples to express fractions in the same denomination.
- Compare and order fractions, including fractions  $> 1$
- Generate and describe linear number sequences (with fractions)
- Add and subtract fractions with different denominations and mixed numbers, using the concept of equivalent fractions.

In year 5 and 6 it is expected that the children have a quick recall of all the times tables, up to and including the twelves. Mathematics have added a new section called Meritopia, which the children can access using their usual log in and once they have achieved a certain number of points.

In Science, we will learn about All Living Things, Living Things and their Habitats and Evolution and Inheritance. The main areas are:

### **Living Things & their Habitats**

To be able to explain the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. To describe the life process of reproduction in some plants & animals.

Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals.

Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

### **Evolution and inheritance**

To learn that living things have changed over time and fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Recognise living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

As my year 5s will not have had the opportunity to look at human reproduction in the summer term I will be covering this aspect and link it to animal reproduction as it fits well within our two science topics this term.

### **Other Curriculum Subjects**

I like to start a topic with a time line so the children can place the Victorian period within a timeframe. They will find out about important figures during the Victorian era such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Marconi (local link). The class will learn about the development of transport and its impact on the expansion of the British Empire. The children will discover how life changed both at work and at home for all Victorians.

In art, we will find out about different pencil techniques and look at the work of William Morris.



In geography, we will start with map work and identify the continents and countries that were part of the British Empire during the Victorian times.

In RE we shall be looking at Islam and Christianity.

Premier Sports will be taking an outdoor PE session on Thursdays and weather permitting I plan to do an outdoor PE session on Tuesdays.

Should you have any concerns, no matter how small you think they may be, please email the office who will forward it to me and the sooner I am aware of any issues then the sooner we can work together to get them sorted.

Mrs Marsland

