



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Class Cuckoo Topic Letter Summer Term 2021



Ancient Egyptians

Our final topic of the year will be taking us on a journey to Ancient Egypt. I have outlined more detail on our curriculum for this term as well as some ideas as to how you can help to support your child at home.

Topic

Who were the Ancient Egyptians? We will discover more through the amazing artefacts that have survived thousands of years as historical sources, generating questions to find out how the Ancient Egyptians lived and the achievements of this ancient civilisation. We will learn about what was important to the daily lives of the Ancient Egyptians, who Tutankhamun was and how mummies were made. We will also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different gods. When discovering the importance of the River Nile, we will describe in geographical terms, the types of settlement and land use including trade links.

Reading

Reading underpins all learning, so I continue to encourage the children to read widely, and to keep their reading journal up to date with all books read as well as a variety of entries. Please see the suggested ideas sheet in the front of the journals for further ideas. We are continuing our journey through the reading challenges and when ready for the next reading challenge, children may request a reading conference.

English

Our writing this term follows our topic on the theme of Ancient Egypt. We begin with tales and legends, using the Legend of Osiris as a basis of our descriptive writing. We will be writing explanations of Ancient Egyptian burials, including instructions for the process of mummification. Through our study of Tutankhamun, we will be writing diary entries of the archaeologist Howard Carter and newspaper articles on these incredible discoveries.

Spelling tests will continue to be weekly, and I would ask you to encourage your child to explore the spelling patterns, rules and exceptions beyond the words set, as well as using dictionaries to look up meanings of new vocabulary.

Maths

In Mathematics for the first part of the new term our emphasis will be on consolidating skills from the spring term, solving problems and using our reasoning skills to further extend



mathematical thinking. We will cover the topic of decimals, solving measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to three decimal places. Within our topic on measure including time, we will convert between different units of metric measure, use all four operations to solve problems involving measure, using decimal notation, including scaling. Please do encourage your child spend time each week learning and practising their times table and division facts to 12 x 12 for rapid recall. As a school we have continued our subscription to 'Times Tables Rockstars' and 'Mathletics' which children can use at home as well as at school.

Science

This term's science topics are 'Electricity' (Yr5), 'Animals, including humans' (Yr4) and 'Animals and their habitats' (Yr 4 & 5). The unit of work on the human body for Year 4 covers the skeleton, digestive systems, blood and circulatory system and reproduction. Both Year 4 and Year 5 will cover the RSE content towards the end of the summer term, and further information will be sent home to parents later this term.

Art & Design Technology

This term we will be exploring charcoal and chalk as a media in our exploration of light and dark, taking inspiration from Egyptian stylised forms of portrait paintings. We will use clay to create Egyptian pots, a cartouche and use our mathematical skills to create pyramids!

PE

Our PE sessions this term will be on Thursdays and Fridays. We will be developing skills for use in striking and fielding team games of rounders and cricket. In athletics we will be further developing our running, jumping and throwing skills, as well as taking part in whole class competition events.

RE

Our religious education topic begins this term with a study of Judaism, with the focus on the importance of the home in Jewish life including keeping a Kosher home and observing dietary laws. In the second half of the summer term, we will study Hinduism; creation and reincarnation. We will discover more about the Hindu gods Brahma (creator), Vishnu (preserver) and Shiva (destroyer).

Music & French

We are fortunate to have specialist teachers with Mrs Long and Madame Dekhar teaching the class music and French respectively every Wednesday.

In this half term's music lessons, we will be revisiting our work on notation and learning to play the keyboard. Those children who already play the piano will be given extension tasks.

We will be composing a piece of music with an Egyptian theme and performing our own compositions. We will also study instruments and their construction to fit in with our work in class and listen to music by our next Composers of the Month, Saint-Georges and Khachaturian.

Children will learn to recognise and respond to sound patterns and words in French. They will learn more about food and drink and how to order these in a café.



PSHE

Our theme for Summer is health and wellbeing. Through discussions and activities, we will cover aspects of our physical health and mental wellbeing, growing and changing and keeping safe.

LET'S PRESENT

Each Wednesday the children will have the opportunity to present to the class. This term our presentation is with a focus on the wider world. Children may present on any country of their choice. Presentations should last around 5 minutes, followed by a Q&A session from the class. If children wish to use a PowerPoint file, please send via the Class C email below or upload to Google Classroom.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do get in touch via email ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk I will endeavour to check messages and respond between 3.30pm and 4pm every day. If you have an urgent message for the day, please do send in a note or telephone the office, who can pass on the details to me.

Thank you in advance for your continued support,

C Evans

Mrs Evans

