



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Learning in Class Dove Spring 2022

The Mayan - Creators and Creations

Welcome back everyone. Let's hope this term we will be able to remain in school and do our learning together. We have a very busy term ahead based around the group of people called the Mayan, and wherever possible, our learning will be linked to this topic. The areas to be studied are:

English

Our English this term will be based around the book, 'The Explorer'. It is an adventure story set in the Amazon Rainforest. We will use the book to help us write for a variety of purposes e.g. letters, diary entries, persuasively and to write our own adventure story. The children will also study the rainforest and create a report on the plants and animals found there. During their writing, the children will study the use of paragraphs, fronted adverbials, direct speech and prepositions. They will be encouraged to include their earlier learning of expanded noun phrases, determiners, and all required punctuation. These will be used to enrich their writing.

Maths

Each day there will be a maths lesson. The term will begin with place value looking at Roman numerals, we will continue our learning involving multiplication and division and use this knowledge to help when studying fractions. Our final area of study will be decimals for the Year 4 children and addition and subtraction for the Year 3 children.

Like the autumn term, the children will have two sessions a week called Four Calculations where they will solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations. They will also have opportunities to reinforce their knowledge of their multiplication tables.

Science

This term there are two areas of study, Sound and Light. We will begin with Sound. During their learning, they will identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating, they will recognise that vibrations from a sound travel through a medium to the ear and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. During their learning, they will be looking for patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it and patterns between the volume of a



sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. As part of their learning, the children will have a homework task based around creating a 3-d image of the ear. During the Light study, they will recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light, and notice that light is reflected from surfaces. They will be taught that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes. A study of shadows will be made allowing the children to recognise how shadows are formed and to find patterns in the way that the sizes of shadows change. Shadow clocks will be created and line graphs produced using their data.

History

The children will study the period known as the Mayan. They will discover where they lived, how their society was ruled and what they believed. They will look at their number system, their food, especially corn and chocolate and the different sports they played. Comparisons will be made with their life then and our life now.

Art

In art the children will complete an observational art study. They will use drawing pencils, charcoal, chalk, etc to enable them to create a detailed drawing. This will then be used to create an image in the style of Andy Warhol.

Design Technology

The children will learn the importance of corn in the Mayan diet and the importance of chocolate. A food dish will be created using one of these items. They will also design and produce a mask to represent a god.

Computing

The term will begin by looking at how to stay safe online, recognising and understanding the dangers and where to find help should it be needed. They will control the computer by typing commands. The children will then have the opportunity to make changes to their commands, explaining the effect it has.

Religious Education

There are two units of study this term, Judaism and Christianity. In Judaism they will learn about Moses and his willingness to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. They will study the festival of Pesach and the importance of the Seder meal. They will also consider how challenging it must have been to travel for forty years in the desert before the Hebrews arrived at the Promised land. The Christian study will concentrate on the different rites of passage; baptism, confirmation, weddings and funerals. The term will end with a study of the Christian celebration of Easter.

PSHE

This term the unit of study is concerned with living in the wider world. The children will discuss the value of the Internet, its uses and how to stay safe. They will look at the wider community and the value of money and work.



Reading Challenge

Just like in the autumn term, the children will be working on their own reading programme with the intention of completing a reading award. To achieve this, they need to read regularly from a wide range of genres and record in their Reading journal. We have opportunities in class for quiet reading but I encourage them to read as often as possible at home. It is important that they read aloud to an adult as this enables them to use their voice for effect and to discuss the content of the book.

Let's Present

Once again, the children will have the opportunity to talk to their class about a chosen subject. Last term the children and I learnt a lot about each other. They are truly a group of multi-talented children! The subject this term is 'Where Am I' concentrating on the countries of Central and North America. Again, their talk should last approximately 5 minutes with a question and answer session to follow. The children have received the date of their presentation and have recorded it in their reading journal. May I encourage the children to talk about their presentation and practise their delivery at home before presenting it to the class. Please send any presentations to classd@danburypark.essex.sch.uk

Spelling and Homework

Each Monday the children will be given a set of spellings to study. These spellings should show the learning objective and should have been marked by an adult. These will be found in their spelling diary. The diary should be brought to school each day to enable class work to be achieved. They will be tested on these words on the following Monday.

They also have a set of termly words which they need to learn ready for a test at the end of each term. All children sat a retest in December and have received their next set of words. Should they not have passed, and should they wish to, I would be happy to retest them early, preventing them from falling too far behind.

To aid their multiplication knowledge, I encourage the children to use the Times Table Rockstars program. I would also like to encourage the children to consolidate their maths learning by spending time on Mathletics. Each child has their own log-in details for both. A weekly study has been set until the end of the term.

Finally, should you have any concerns about your child's learning please feel free to call in and discuss these with me. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Mrs Ireland

Mrs Barker

