



# Danbury Park Community Primary School

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## Class Cuckoo Topic Letter Summer Term 2023

### Ancient Egyptians

As we start the Summer Term, we look forward to a term full of learning, enjoyment and new experiences. This term we will have a visit from the 'Two Johns' for an online safety workshop for both children and parents. We are already looking forward to whole school events such as sports day and Danbury's Got Talent. Year 5 have an adventurous activity day at Danbury Outdoors, and as we prepare for the future, a taster day at Sandon High School. We certainly have a busy term ahead!

#### Topic

Our topic this term is history based as we travel back in time thousands of years to the banks of the Nile, where we will learn all about the amazing people and places of Ancient Egypt. We will discover how we know so much today about Ancient Egypt, investigating the amazing artefacts that have survived thousands of year to tell us the story of a vanished world. We will be discovering answers to our questions about what the ancient Egyptians believed in, finding out more about the strange and wonderful gods who ruled over all aspects of the lives of Ancient Egyptians. We will be deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs and of course learning about the incredible discovery of pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb. Within geography, we will investigate the importance of the Nile, and its' flooding cycles to farmers. We will compare how the Nile is used today to ancient times.

#### Reading

We are continuing our journey through the reading challenges and when children are ready for the next reading challenge, they may request a reading conference. Reading underpins all learning so I continue to encourage the children to continue to read regularly, and 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.

#### English

Our writing this term takes inspiration from our topic on ancient Egypt. We will read the legend of Osiris and use our descriptive writing skills to create our own versions. We will be writing explanation and instructions on ancient Egyptian burials, journalistic reports and diary entries on Howard Carter's discoveries of the treasures within Tutankhamun's tomb. Within



poetry, we will explore the work of Benjamin Zephaniah, listening to his performance poetry. We will then write and perform our own poems following his style. 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 decimals, including money. We will then move on to measurement, converting units and volume including time. Within geometry, we investigate the properties of shape as well as position and direction. We embed our learning of statistics, interpreting graphs, including line graphs, into our science work.

As a school, we have continued our subscription to 'Times Tables Rockstars' and 'Mathletics' which children should use at home each week. 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.

### **Science**

Our science topic this term will be 'living things and their habitats'. We will be working scientifically, observing and comparing the life cycles of plants and animals in their local environment with other plants and animals around the world. Children will describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. Children explore a variety of ways to identify, sort, group and classify living things. They learn how animals are split into 'vertebrates' and 'invertebrates' and begin to consider differences between living things within these classifications.

### **Art & Design Technology**

This term we will design, make and evaluate different types of bread, culminating in Class Cuckoo's Great Bread Bake Off! Within art, we will explore Egyptian stylised forms of painting and printing techniques.

### **PE**

Our PE sessions this term are on Thursdays and Fridays. We will be developing skills used in striking and fielding games such as rounders and cricket. Within athletics, we will develop running, jumping and throwing skills. We will also be learning the skills of tennis.

### **RE**

Our religious education topic begins this term with a study of Buddhism, discovering more about the Buddhist way of life - The Middle Way and The Noble Eightfold Path.

### **Computing**

Our computing lessons will begin with the history of animation techniques before the use of computers. We will then compare a range of animation software to create our own animations. Within E-safety we will scrutinise photographs and learn how easy it is to manipulate pictures and present them as a reality online.



### Music & French

We are fortunate to have subject specialists teaching the class music and French every Wednesday. Within music the children will continue their work on notation and learning to play the ukulele. They will also study instruments and their construction comparing them with Egyptian instruments.

### PSHE

Our theme for Summer Term is 'Health and Wellbeing'. We explore maintaining a balanced lifestyle, oral hygiene and dental care. We learn how to keep ourselves safe around medicines and household products and drugs common to everyday life. Within growing and changing, (Y4) we will learn about the physical and emotional changes related to puberty. Further details will follow on this topic to parents before this learning begins.

### Let's Present

Each Wednesday the children will have the opportunity to present to the class. This term our presentations are titled 'What's in the News'. Children can choose any topical story from the news and present to the class. I encourage the children to use Newsround and 'The Week Junior' which we have in class to select their stories from. Presentations should last around 5 minutes, followed by a Q&A session from the class.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do get in touch via email [ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:ClassC@danburypark.essex.sch.uk) 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

