



Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Class Budgerigar

Our topic this term is *The Victorians*. The class will explore this era and the innovative changes that occurred in Britain at this time. Learning and discussion will focus on our 'Big Question', 'How did the Industrial Revolution shape the world we know today?' The pupils will be 'History Detectives', researching the many ideas and inventions which were created in the Victorian era, as well as looking at the art and literature of the time. A school trip to Audley End House has been arranged, a day when the children can dress up as a Victorian child and get a feel for what life was like in the late 1800s.

In English, the children will build on skills, writing texts in a variety of genres, both fiction and non-fiction. This will include an explanation text on a Victorian invention of their choice, a biography of Queen Victoria and non-chronological reports on a variety of Victorian themes including the Industrial Revolution, Charles Darwin's research, the British Empire and education. They will write an instruction text linked to a stable structure design task inspired by the work the Victorian engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The children will be expected to continue to read regularly to an adult at home and to continue to record their reading in their school reading journal, and which I will refer to during reading conferences. This term we will be studying a classic Victorian text, *Alice in Wonderland*, a vocabulary-rich text which is a great springboard for developing creative writing. In poetry, we will look at *Jabberwocky*, as well as haikus and cinquains. I do read a class book to the children during the week and have chosen *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell as our first story.

Spelling tests will take place on Monday; it would be helpful if you could encourage your child to explore the spelling patterns, rules and exceptions beyond the words set. Year 6 will receive their homework tasks on Monday, to be completed by the following Monday. I will set activities on Mathematics and I do expect children to spend some time on these every week, as this consolidates learning.

In Mathematics, the main areas covered will be:

Place value

- rounding, adding and subtracting numbers to the powers of 10 up to 10 000 000;
- 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 years 5 and 6, it is expected that children have a quick recall of all the times tables, up to and including the twelves. Times Tables Rockstars is an excellent programme for keeping skills sharp.

In Science, we will cover the topics: Living Things and their Habitats, and Evolution and Inheritance. The skills children will learn and develop are as follows:

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

In RE, in the first half of the term, we will be focussing on the Sikh faith. We will begin by discussing the life of Guru Nanak and how his teachings became the foundation for this religion's beliefs. In the second half of the term, we will look at Christianity and the importance of Jesus, looking at the most important events in his life and their significance for Christians.

Our first topic in PSHE is 'Relationships'; the children will consider the importance of different kinds of connections with people, at home, school and within the community. In PE, the class will be covering tag rugby in outside games and using both floor and apparatus for sequences, levels and flight in

gymnastics this term. In art, the class will analyse the work of the Victorian craftsman, William Morris and will sew a sample using a variety of stitches. The class will be looking at decomposition and logical number sequences as a starting point in computing; we will continue to build on general computing skills and internet safety.

I always look forward to seeing the work the children put into 'Let's Present' and I will give out a timetable for presentations under separate cover.

Should you have any concerns, no matter how small you think they may be, please email the office who will forward queries to me or alternatively, email queries to our Class B account. Please note that I may not be able to answer questions immediately, but will endeavour to reply as soon as I can.

Finally, I am really looking forward to the teaching and learning in the year ahead and know that the children will collect many positive memories along the way!

Kind regards,

Mrs Murphy.