

Class Wren Newsletter

Happy New Year ! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and ready to see what the New Year brings!

Potions

Welcome to the amazing magical world of potions! This half term, we'll start by trying to persuade people to buy lots of magical, fictional potions! We'll learn how to use alliterations, slogans and rhetoric questions! Using a range of lotions and potions, we'll also explore solids, liquids and gases. Now Scientists, beware! There are some powerful and deadly potions out there, which will... EXPLODE!

Then, we will read and write about a famous chapter, from Alice in Wonderland, involving a dark, mysterious hole, doorknob and a potion bottle labelled 'Drink Me'. We'll also explore Song of the Witches: "Double, double toil and trouble" by William Shakespeare and perform our very own spell. Listening to Mussorgsky's A Night on the Bare Mountain will be fun and spooky, and we'll be able to see how composers create stories using only music! This term we'll go out with a BANG!

Winter is Here!

We all know how unpredictable British weather can be! Please ensure that your child brings a coat everyday to school with their name inside. I would advise that children keep their hats, scarfs and gloves inside their school bags to prevent them getting lost in the cloakrooms.

Water Bottles

Children need to bring their water bottle into the classroom daily which can be used anytime except at lunchtime. Children can keep water bottles at their desks as long it is used appropriately.

RE and British Values

In RE, we will be learning about The Journey of Life and Death. This unit enables children to reflect on emotions and feelings linked to celebration and loss. We will also investigate key beliefs and concepts in Christianity and Islam connected to birth, growing up, marriage and death.

The children will focus on Teamwork and Confidence as apart of their Brinsley Values. They will be talking about what these words mean and how it links to society.

Science

In Science, we will look at **States of Matter**. We will explore solids, liquids and gases through lots of practical experiments!

Year 4 Homework, Spellings & Home Reading

Maths homework: There will be a weekly cycle of maths homework consisting of one piece of Maths homework which will consolidate or challenge learning in the classroom (same as the previous term). This needs to be handed in **every Monday** so that it can be marked and returned to your child on the same day.

Reading at Home : Children will be able to access Bug Club based on their individual book bands to answer comprehension questions at home. At the end of KS2, children ultimately answer comprehension questions as part of their SATs assessment. Therefore, it is important that we expose children to different questions within different genres of writing. On the other hand, reading for enjoyment and pleasure is something I am passionate about. A love for reading is equally as important. Please encourage your children to record in their own reading log when they have read at home with an adult, independently or on Bug Club. Mrs Taylor will stamp books **every Monday** and stick in guided reading learning outcomes for the week.

Cornerstones Topic Homework: New homework will be given out shortly for this topic, with a list of exciting things to do at home. Children can bring their homework into school to share with the class and receive a well done dot and certificate.

Spellings: Spellings will be tested **every Friday**. These spellings link to the Year 3/ 4 spelling rules and common exception words. These rules will be taught within grammar sessions on Fridays. Some children will have their own spelling group with Mrs Taylor to target spelling gaps. Please ensure children's bring in their home spelling log **every Friday** too so that we can record their scores and stick in their new spellings.

Optional English Homework: Writing and Grammar are key areas within the English curriculum. If you would like one piece of weekly English homework sending home too in their homework folder, please contact Miss Croft.

PE and Swimming

Swimming will resume again in February for children who did not achieve level 4(25metres) in Year 3. If your children achieved Level 4, they will remain at school to take part in a PE lesson. Our PE day will take place on Tuesday morning or Friday Afternoon with the Miss Croft. Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school at all times. Earrings should be removed at home or a letter obtained from the office if ears are newly pierced. More information to follow later in the term.

Maths

In Maths, we will be looking at Multiplication and Division. We will build on our knowledge from last term in order to solve more complex problems. We will begin to use formal methods of calculation for the two operations and apply to a variety of worded problems.

Keep practising basic multiplication times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12!

Diary Dates

18.1.19 – Potions WOW Day (Information below)
24.1.19 – Film Night
25.1.19 – Linking Schools Trip
4.2.19 – 8.2.19 Well-Being Week
14.2.19 Valentines Disco
15.2.19 Last Day of Spring Term 1
8.3.19 Viking Workshop (in school)

Potions WOW Day

On Friday 18th January, we will be conducting lots of exciting experiments to help us to understand about solids, liquids and gases!
We would like your child to come to school in clothes linked to Potions. You could dress up as a Scientist, a witch or wizard, Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland or a previous Halloween costume!
The choice is yours and be as creative as you like!

Useful websites and apps

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zkgg87h> - About States of Matter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUvyrdpJu9E> – Formal Method of Multiplication – Expanded Method

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - Quick recall facts for maths with a time table area. (Remember it isn't just multiplication facts but division facts too)

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43189/song-of-the-witches-double-double-toil-and-trouble> - Song of the Witches: "Double, double toil and trouble" by William Shakespeare

Miss Croft, Miss
Gallacher & Mrs Taylor
4C

