

Beech Class

Spring term



Every Picture Tells a Story



Light and Shadows

Dear Parents/Carers,

During the Spring Term we have some really stimulating topics, which are going to spark the children's curiosity and lead us on an exciting learning journey. We will be exploring a variety of images and using questioning skills (and a little creativity) to discover the stories they reveal! Later in the term, we will focus on Light and Shadows – a topic which will examine how light is important in many different ways.

In **Science** we will be continuing our work on forces and deepening our understanding of resistance and friction. Throughout our science lessons we will work on developing our understanding of fair testing. Later in the term, we will be finding out about the scientific aspects of light such as reflection and transparency.

Our **History** lessons will continue to develop children's sense of chronology. As the term progresses we will be exploring some local history and consider some of the major changes that have occurred in and around Petworth. We hope to be able to use some of the questioning skills from our work on pictures to examine artefacts and buildings.

In **Geography** children will develop their field-work skills so they can think about some of the issues in our local area. Children will choose a question to investigate and then gather data and present it to the class. In addition to improving the children's fieldwork skills we hope to be able to come up with some ideas to improve our environment.

Computing lessons will focus on giving the children skills to present and conduct surveys as well as communicate safely with others online. This will complement our fieldwork in geography and allow us to share some of our learning with the wider community. Throughout our computing lessons we will discuss e-safety and ensure the children are aware of online risks and how to use the internet safely.

Our **PE** lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children will be learning games and sports to improve their balance, co-ordination, strength and fitness. This term we will be focussing on Dance, Playground Games, Gymnastics and Racquet Sports.

Art will be an integral part of our first topic. We will be evaluating and discussing artists' work and creating a variety of pictures based on what we learn. We will be looking at two artists in particular: David Hockney and Pablo Picasso. We will use multi-media technology to create art in the style of David Hockney and discover some of the background behind Picasso's weird and wonderful paintings.

In **Design and Technology** we will learn about levers, fulcrums and mechanical parts. We will put this learning to use when we design and make shadow puppets.

Our **RE** lessons will cover a range of Bible stories, which will provoke discussions about Christian faith – What is it? What does it mean to different people? We will consider how religion uses images and what they represent. Our topic on light will also give us the opportunity to consider the spiritual aspects of light.

This term in **music** children will be finding out about the pentatonic scale and developing their ability to notate pitch. They will also be working on composition and performance skills. The music will be themed around: Chinese New Year, The Environment, The Human Body and Poetry.

In **French** this term, the children will learn how to say the days of the week and months of the year as well as reciting the letters of the alphabet. They will also learn how to have conversations about birthdays, learning the associated vocabulary and sentence structures. In the second half of the term, the children will explore the story of "Les quatre amis" (The four friends) and will learn the names of the different animals that occur in the story.

Of course **English** and **Maths** will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above. If you would like any additional information about this term's learning please do not hesitate to ask me.

As a school we are continuing our focus on reading, particularly developing children's enjoyment of books. It would be helpful if you could hear your child read on a daily basis. To support children's language development, it is also really beneficial to read to children. Feel free to ask if you want any book recommendations!

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Arithmetic and spellings will be tested on a weekly basis.

I look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming term.

Kind Regards,

Mr Neary – Class Teacher

