



P.P.S. Elm Class

September 2021
Autumn Term



'Where in the world? South America'

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school for the start of a new (and hopefully less turbulent) year. This term we have an exciting array of experiences planned for the children, so that learning will be both challenging and fun.

Our first geography unit of work will develop the children's locational knowledge, with a particular focus on South America. Children will learn about using compass points and co-ordinates to describe locations. They will find out about some of the major cities in South America and use maps to analyse why some areas have become more densely populated than others.

Closer to home, we will also be getting 'out and about' in Petworth to conduct some fieldwork on how accessible our town's facilities are to wheelchair users.

Every Monday afternoon in the first half term, children will be taking part in some outdoor-based learning called, 'Film, Farm, Fork'. This will provide the chance to get stuck in with the school farm; cook some seasonal food; and create/edit some films about their learning. Throughout these sessions, learning will be linked to National Curriculum objectives for science, design and technology and computing.

In science, children will acquire an understanding of the different life-cycles of plants, birds, amphibians and mammals. Later in the term, lessons will be on classifying materials. Children will learn how to separate solutions and investigate reversible and irreversible changes.

A varied and challenging term of P.E. awaits Elm Class this term: children will be benefitting from some expert gymnastics coaching, courtesy of Victory Gymnastics. In addition, there will be weekly swimming lessons at Billingshurst Leisure Centre on Friday mornings.

Having learnt about some of the features of Ancient Egypt in year 4, our history lessons' focus this term will be how the Nile was significant in the formation of advanced civilisation. Children will also be visiting the British Museum to see some historical artefacts in the flesh and attend a short lecture.

Computing lessons will focus on e-safety. We These will ensure the pupils have an understanding of how to use the internet appropriately. Children will also be continuing to build on their research skills, using search engines to find out more information about a range of topics. The children will also be reminding themselves how they can access and upload onto our class blog. To improve their coding skills, children will be using Scratch 2.0 to write algorithms to accomplish specific goals. They will learn about using selection and repetition to make their coding more efficient.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.



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‘Ancient Egypt - Civilisation and the Nile

Art lessons will explore multi-media collages, culminating in children choosing a flag from a country in South America to re-create as a collage.

Design and Technology lessons will have a ‘foodie’ focus for the first half term as children will be cooking a variety of seasonal savoury dishes as part of ‘Film, Farm, Fork’. In the latter half of the term, children will develop their sewing technique by producing some textile Christmas decorations for the Christmas fair.

Our R.E. lessons will look at the idea of creation and fall. The children will have the opportunity to debate conflicting and complementary ideas about the world’s origin and think about how science and religion can co-exist. Later in the term, learning will be guided by the question, “Was Jesus the Messiah?” Children will discover how Christians interpret the idea of incarnation.

In French children will learn to discuss their musical preferences and to say which instruments they play or enjoy, as well as describing what other people are playing. In the second unit of work, children learn names of food and drinks related to packed lunches and breakfast. They learn how to talk about what they have eaten/ drunk the previous day.

Homework will continue to be set weekly. Arguably the most important part of this homework is the need for children to read at home at least five days out of seven. The overall effect of regular reading on children’s education cannot be understated as it has a knock-on effect on many other subjects in the curriculum. Please ensure your child completes this in addition to the online maths, spellings and reading comprehension sheet.

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 us.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timestables will be practised in school regularly and tested on Wednesdays. Spellings will be tested on a Monday

I am really looking forward to working with year 5 this year. I know it will be an exciting, challenging and fun-filled year. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk to me please feel free to make an appointment at the office.

Many thanks,

Rob Neary (Class teacher)

Mrs Mayne (Teaching assistant)
Mrs Dallyn (Teaching assistant)

Key dates for you diary

Swimming lessons

Commencing 17th September—end of term

Gymnastics

Start of term—12th October

Parliament week

1st November

British Museum Trip

22nd November

Christmas Fair

3rd December