



P.P.S. Beech Class

April 2018
Summer Term

From Seed to Forest / Dragon's Den

Dear Parents,

A warm (hopefully!) welcome back to the Summer term. We hope you had some time to relax over the Easter break and are just as excited as we are about this term's learning opportunities! We will be beginning this term with a scientific focus on plant lifecycles and reproduction. After half-term, the children will be immersed in a cross-curricular entrepreneurial topic involving a lot of DT and Literacy.

In Science, we will be learning about plants. During this term, the children will learn about a plant's requirements for life, different types of plants and their adaptations to habitats and the role each part of a plant plays. They will be taught the meaning of key terms such as dispersal, germination and absorption and will be encouraged to enquire throughout their scientific experiences.

Towards the end of the first half of term, the children will visit Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve, where they will be able to explore seed dispersal and habitats further and enrich their learning about different types of plants.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure your child has P.E. kit, appropriate for the weather, in school on these days. This term, our P.E. lessons will focus on net and wall skills, including accuracy and hand-eye co-ordination. The children will be learning these skills through the context of tennis and cricket. Later in the term, we

will also be learning how to jump, run and throw in our athletics lessons.

Computing lessons this term will focus on presenting learning in different ways and using different software. The children will have opportunities to use Publisher, PowerPoint and 2simple software to make electronic maps (linking to their geography field work) and to create a persuasive advert for their products during our Dragons Den topic.

Our History for this term is centred on the question, "How has land use changed around the South Downs over time?". The children will learn about local history and use sources to explore how people's lives have changed over the last century.

This cross-curricular topic also lends itself to some fantastic opportunities for teaching geographical knowledge, such as terrain, landscape and map reading skills. The children will read maps and interpret them to help orientate themselves around the local area and will also create their own maps using an appropriate scale.

In Art and Design lessons, we will be learning about the work of the artist Andy Goldsworthy and creating our own natural art in Petworth Park. We will use watercolour paint to create landscapes and will learn about perspective and horizon through the work of Turner. Later in the term, we will be creating accurate and detailed product designs, mastering our sketching and observational skills.

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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In Design and Technology lessons we will design, create and evaluate 3D volcanoes as part of our Summer Term STEM day. We will also design and sew bunting for an end of term picnic, hosted by the children. There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to cook and evaluate their outcomes. In the second half of the term, the children will become entrepreneurs and will use market research to help them create a design brief for a new piece of playground equipment. They will create sketches of their ideas, make them and then advertise them to the school.

As well as discussing and thinking about the core values that permeate the school's collective worships this term, we will be exploring the question "What is the Trinity?" in R.E. lessons. The children will have opportunities to think about how many different roles they have and this will link to the idea of God as a father, a son and a holy spirit. They will write letters to a friend explaining what the Holy Trinity means to them.

The children will have experience of playing the cello this term in their Music lessons. Within these lessons, they will learn about notation and rhythm as well as having the opportunity to perform their newly refined skills to an audience!

Mrs Soal will be teaching Year 3 French on Thursday afternoons. In the first part of the term, the children will learn to name colours and revisit parts of the body.

During the second half of the term, they will be taught to have a short interaction using conversational language.

English and Maths will continue to be taught daily and will, wherever possible, be linked to

the topic to give the children's learning cross-curricular context. In English, for example, we will be writing leaflets to persuade people to visit Pulborough Brooks Nature Reserve.

It goes without saying that we always value the support you give your children at home and the work you do with them to consolidate their learning. We continue to have a heavy focus on reading in school and believe enjoyment of reading is of primary importance. It would be helpful, if you could listen to your child read regularly at home and record this in their Reading Records.

Maths homework tasks will continue to be set each week on Mathletics. Spellings will follow the National Curriculum spelling patterns and weekly lists will also include two words from the Year 3 statutory list. Times tables and spellings will be tested every week.

Lastly, we would welcome any volunteer parents who are able to listen to children read during the week. Please let one of us know if you feel you may be able to support us with this.

We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you over the coming weeks,

Kind regards,

Mrs Harris and Mrs Blackmore
Class teachers