



P.P.S. Willow Class

January 2022
Spring Term

Extreme Earth / Macbeth, 'In Thunder, Lightning or Rain'

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome the children back to school for the first term of 2022. As always, it is going to be a very busy time with plenty of exciting learning opportunities on offer to the children.

Our first topic of this term will be '**Extreme Earth**' - a geography-based topic, focusing on the science behind, as well as the impact of volcanos and earthquakes.

In the latter half of the term we will be discussing and discovering the work of William Shakespeare. We will be looking at him as a 'British Icon' and the impact he and other Britons have had on society.

Our first topic focuses on geography and the children will be learning key geographical terms, as well as some skills used by geographers. The second topic is more of an English-based topic, with the children exploring the great texts of William Shakespeare.

In addition to our Extreme Earth geography, the children will also be exploring times zones around the world, looking at how these are formed and calculating time zones across different countries we have studied.

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.

As part of the topic, '**In Thunder, Lightning or Rain**', children will become better acquainted with British Icons, and be given the opportunity to write to different organisations to help improve Britain..

In **Science** lessons, children will study natural selection and consider how adaptation has affected the evolution of different species over time. The children will continue to work scientifically as they plan enquiries, gather data and using comparative and fair tests to answer their enquiries. The children will also continue their learning on electricity, looking at building circuits and creating circuit diagrams.

R.E. lessons in the first half term, the children will be taught by 'Bible Explorers', with the focus on the Old Testament. In the second half term will be based on the key question: What kind of King is Jesus? By basing our learning around questions, we hope to engage the children in some theological and philosophical discussions which will really make them challenge themselves and gain a deeper understanding.

In **Computing** lessons, children will be using Scratch (a computer programme) to develop their ability to code. In the first module, they will learn about using selection and repetition to draw shapes. In the second module, they will design and create their own memory games, writing algorithms to achieve their desired goals. As with all of our Computing lessons, children will be taught about the importance of e-safety throughout.



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P.E. lessons will allow children to explore strategy and positioning in games. There will be a particular emphasis on children evaluating and reflecting on their own and others' performance. The children will be participating in cricket coaching lessons during the first half term.

In **Dance**, Children will be developing controlled movement in response to rhythms. Our P.E. days are Monday and Wednesday. In addition to the P.E. sessions, the children will be continuing to run regularly as we aim to try and run a mile three times a week.

In D & T, the children will begin a project to develop a working fairground ride. This project will develop across both Spring and Summer Term. Later in the term they will be looking at famous British designers, architects and artists, and learning techniques to improve their mastery of drawing and painting.

Of course, English and Maths will be taught on a daily basis and will often be linked to the topic areas listed above.

Maths this term will consolidate children's ability to calculate with all four operations and apply these skills to decimals, fractions, ratios and percentages. Children will develop their ability to measure accurately and read a variety of measuring scales.

English lessons will encourage pupils to develop their writing skills and hone their SPAG (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar). In Reading lessons we are helping the children provide more in-depth answers to higher level questions, particularly those involving inference skills.

Spellings will continue to follow the National Curriculum patterns along with words from the statutory list. Please

ensure that children are using www.spellingshed.com as a tool to practise their spellings.

Times tables will be tested on a regular basis and we will be monitoring children's progress with recalling key facts. Times Tables Rockstars is a superb resource for children to use at home too: <https://ttrockstars.com/>. Ideally the children would access these resources at least twice a week to improve their rapid recall of their times tables and spellings.

We are really looking forward to another exciting term ahead with year 6. As SATs approach in the not too distant future, we are eager to get the children to achieve their very best whilst maintaining their enjoyment of school. If you have any concerns or feel that you need to talk about your child's learning, please feel free to catch me at the school gate or make an appointment at the office.

Zoe Pennicotte-Henrie (Teacher)
Jo Gill (Assistant)
Steph Mayne (Assistant)

Willow Class blog—<https://petworthprimaryschool.edublogs.org/>