



SKELLIG

DAVID
ALMOND

P.P.S. Elm Class

January 2018
Spring Term

Fantastical Fantasy / Inspirational Italy and Awesome Andes

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the spring term. We hope you had an exciting Christmas break and are ready to launch into the New Year. We will be starting the year with a focus on 'Skellig' by David Almond. Through this we will delve into the world of angels and warnings, while having the opportunity to create our own art work based on the book. We will then move onto inspirational Italy in the second half of the spring term, looking specifically at culture and how it compares to the topographical features of the Andes.

In Science, we will be starting the term by focussing on animals and their habitats, with a specific focus on the life-cycles of birds, mammals and plants. The children will also have the opportunity to explore how habitats can impact on lifecycles and exploring new life around them. In the second half of the spring term we will move onto chemical reactions, particularly soluble and insoluble, permanent and reversible changes, with links to our design technology for this term.

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In P.E., children will be taking part in gymnastics. They will also take part in competitive invasions games, such as tag rugby and football, which will develop the basic principles of attacking and defending.

Computing lessons will give children the opportunity to design their own art work, inspired by Bridget Riley. They will use digital cameras and Inkscape to explore tessellation and how this can be manipulated using computing hardware and software. Throughout the

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term they will also continue to be bloggers, updating the class blog and eventually creating their own short term blog, to highlight work they are proud of.

Our Geography focus from the second half of the term will be Italy and the Andes. Children will name and locate cities and regions and learn about latitude and longitude. They will learn how the climate affects the country in terms of the economy and how the land is used. Children will become more confident reading and using a variety of different maps to identify human and physical features. They will be able to make comparisons between Italy and the United Kingdom. We will also use our trip to Brixton to encourage our children to think about similarities and differences between Petworth and the surrounding areas and London.

Art lessons will focus on creating humans in motion. The children will use sketching techniques to observe, test and critique each other's motion pictures. The children will focus on perspective and creating proportion in their work. They will then have the opportunity to create their own charcoal interpretation of Skellig, linked to their literacy work.

In Design and Technology the children will be exploring the food of Italy and how this has impacted on life in the United Kingdom. They will then have the chance to cook their own pizza or pasta dish and market this to their family and friends. In addition, they will learn how to design and build structures that include cams to make simple moving toys, which the children will evaluate once completed.

Our R.E. lessons will look at the idea of Salvation – What did Jesus do to save human beings? Children will study texts from the Bible and participate in drama activities in order to help them understand reasons why Jesus died. They will begin to explain what Christians mean when they say that Jesus' death was a sacrifice, using theological terms.



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During music, children will learn Adelle’s version of You Make Me Feel Your Love and will learn how to improvise rhythms and melodies over the top of it. They will play a variety of musical games and have opportunities to play percussion instruments to accompany the song(s).

In the first part of the term, the children learn to say the alphabet in French and continue to gain confidence in using numbers. They learn how to understand and use names for places in their local area. They follow and give directions, and they describe their route to school using verbs in the present tense. They practise some strategies for keeping a conversation going.

During the second half of the term, the children use both new and familiar language to describe a painting. The painting used here is *Scène de plage* by Degas. Children use their knowledge to write and perform their own poetry inspired by the painting.

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 and this term we are holding a reading ‘swimming gala’, which was chosen by some of the year 5 children as a focus. The children will have the opportunity to compete for a medal by reading for 500 minutes across the term.

Spellings will follow the National Curriculum patterns along with two words from the statutory list. Timetables will be tested through our five minute challenge on a Monday and Wednesday and spellings will be tested on a Tuesday.

Homework will continue to be set weekly with a renewed focus on using Lexia and Mathletics at home, as these gives the children independent and focused work on improving their maths and reading skills.

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We look forward to working with you and your children.

Tim Parsons and Laura Sandon-Webb

Key dates for you diary

- Year 5 visit their link school – 11th January 2018
- Skip hop workshops – 15th January 2018
- INSET day – 9th February 2018
- World Book Day – 1st March 2018
- Parents evening – 27th and 28th March 2018
- Disco – 29th March 2018

Mon	Tues	Wedn	Thurs	Friday
	Home-work due in	Home-work set		
Timeta- bles test		Times tables test		
	Spelling test			
	PE	PE		