

# Van Gogh Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2017-2018

This term we are studying the Caribbean. We started this topic last term but there is so much learning that can come from this topic that we are carrying on. The children will be doing lots of work in art - carrying out our impressionist work with Pointilism, tie dying and making models. We will also be covering map work and data handling in Geography - locating the islands of the Caribbean and finding out what they are well known for, their climate and their economy. We will be using Talk for Writing to describe the Caribbean area too. We've already had some fun learning a couple of Caribbean songs - you may remember Brown Girl in the Ring which is actually a traditional playground song, and might like to sing this at home with your child.

## Mathematics

This term in Mathematics we will be measuring and drawing lines in cm and mm and will convert between these measurements (eg. 25mm = 2cm 5mm = 2.5cm). We will also be converting other metric units of length (centimetres to metres and metres to kilometres). Maybe your child could have a go at measuring some objects at home, or they might like to estimate the length of everyday items and then use a ruler or tape measure to check their answers. Remind them to start measuring from 0, not from the end of the ruler and always check the scale. This will lead on to finding the perimeter and area of shapes.

After this work we will move on to looking at metric units of weight (grams and kilograms) and capacity (millilitres and litres). If your child has an opportunity to do some baking at home, it would be great for them to weigh the ingredients or just to weigh everyday items like an apple or a packet of crisps. Maybe you could guess the amount of ml or litres of water that a variety of containers can hold and then check your estimations.

## ENGLISH

In Talk for Writing we will be studying a persuasive text which tells us why we should be going on holiday to Jamaica! The children are currently learning the text and also becoming familiar with the features of persuasive writing (eg. using personal pronouns to make the reader feel involved, including rhetorical questions, using language that helps the reader to form an image and including statistics). Pupils will be working towards writing a persuasive leaflet about a Caribbean holiday destination of their choice. It would be useful if they could start to gather some information and pictures that they could use in their writing. Paragraphs might include information on the best beaches, local cuisine, entertainment for children, average weather conditions or best visitor attractions.

Van Gogh class have made a fantastic start to the Buster's Book Club read on Wednesday initiative. Last week we were the class that had the most children reading on Wednesday evening. Please remember to sign your child's Book Club card on Wednesday and send the reading record book in on Thursday to be checked. Year three have a target of 15 minutes reading and Year 4 are aiming to complete at least 20 minutes.

**PLEASE PAY ANY OUTSTANDING SWATTENDEN DEPOSITS ASAP - FINAL NUMBERS NOW NEED TO BE DECIDED WITH THE CENTRE. THANK YOU.**

## PE

Thank you for helping your child to remember their PE kit each week. We have had very few occasions where children have needed to borrow the PINK kit. This term, as the weather turns a little colder, please send your child in with dark coloured jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt so that they are warm in lessons. Please could you ensure that girls do not wear tights on PE days, socks are better for exercise sessions.

This term our PE days continue to be Tuesday when we are learning NETBALL AND BASKETBALL SKILLS and Wednesday when we go SWIMMING.

## HOMEWORK

Mrs Newton will set homework to be completed over the weekend by your child in their homework book. This should be returned to school by Wednesday at the latest, in order for it to be marked and returned ready for the following weekend. If your child has any worries or problems with homework, please come and see us and we will try to help. Alternatively, they can go to Mrs Britton's Homework Club on a Monday lunchtime and she will support them there.

Thank you to everyone who has supported their child with our topic homework this term. I have had a lovely array of paintings, models, newspaper reports, Powerpoint presentations and even a cake brought in to school. I would like the children to attempt three activities each term from the list and then put them in their book or bring in their work for display. These tasks are all linked to our topic for the term. We are collecting points for work completed and points make prizes! Six pieces of topic homework by Christmas will earn a trip to the 'treat box'!

## ASSESSMENT WEEK AND PARENT MEETINGS

Our next assessment week will take place the week beginning 27 November 2017. The children will be assessed on their understanding and progress in reading, writing, mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling. We will be sharing the outcomes of these assessments with you at our Learning and Progress meetings on Monday 4 December 2017 between 2.30pm and 6.30pm. If you are unable to attend on this day, please let us know and we will arrange for another time.

## WINTERWEATHER

Now that the Autumn is with us the weather can be unpredictable. We usually go outdoors for some of the day, even if it is raining, in order to get some fresh air. Please ensure that your child has appropriate cold weather clothing in school every day. Coats are always expected, but NAMED scarfs, gloves and hats can be helpful too so that your child is comfortable when outdoors.

## DIARY DATES

- 16.11.17 Van Gogh Assembly at 2.30pm
- 17.11.17 Children in Need
- 24.11.17 Non School Uniform Day - send in sweeties or chocolates for the tombola if your child is not wearing school uniform
- 28.11.17 Flu vaccinations
- 29.11.17 Marlowe Theatre Trip - Peter Pan
- 30.11.17 PTFA Cinema Trip for Years 1-4 - Paddington 2
- 2.12.17 PTFA Christmas Fair 2pm-4pm
- 4.12.17 Learning and Progress Meetings
- 19.12.17 Last Achievement Assembly of the term
- 20.12.17 Christingle Service in St Augustine's Church 1.30pm