

This Term in Year 4

Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new year at Whitchurch Junior School. We hope you have had a restful summer and ready to start the new academic year. The year 4 team: Mrs Cooke, Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Jones along with Mrs Gleave, Miss Reynolds and Mrs Lee welcome you to come and see us at any time if you have anything that you would like to discuss or of course you can always catch us in the playground at the end of the day.



This Autumn term, our topic is “**Animal Sanctuary**”. The children have set up their own company to create an animal sanctuary that will protect the wildlife and educate the public. At the end of the topic we will be inviting parents in to come and explore their children’s learning alongside them. Please look out for a separate letter regarding this.

To engage the children further in this topic, you could discuss animal sanctuaries, zoos, safaris, animal habitats etc. at home. If your child would like to share their learning with their class please send this in with a name on.

In **Maths** we will be consolidating and extending our understanding of number, place value and algebra; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division; fractions, measures, geometry and statistics. Your child will need to continue to learn multiplication tables to 12X12 at home and also practise telling the time.

In **English** our focus will be on using picture books to inspire a variety of writing types that will include; story writing, biography/autobiography writing, diaries, newspaper writing and TV news reports. Alongside this children will be deepening their understanding of grammatical forms and spelling patterns.

Home Learning

It is important to develop a homework routine with your children as they progress through Year 4. English and Maths home learning will be set weekly on Wednesdays to be handed in on the following Mondays. Alongside this, there will be the continued expectation that children will read at home at least three times a week. The reading record should be used to write down any reading that the children do at home- please encourage your child to write their own comment in their reading diary alongside your own comments. We would really appreciate any support you can give your children with their home learning, spellings and reading. Mathletics and Spellodrome have been set up this year; please encourage your children to use these. New login details will be sent home shortly.

P.E.

This term the children will be doing Sportscape or Forest schools on Friday afternoons as well as an additional PE lesson on Tuesdays. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate PE kit in relation to the new school guidelines: school (logo) PE top, School (logo) navy shorts or skirt, School (logo) navy jogging bottoms and hooded top and trainers or pumps. Long hair should be tied up. Children’s P.E. Kit should be left in school throughout the week and taken home at weekends, as our outdoor PE sessions may fluctuate

with the weather. For forest schools please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat. Please send a note if your child is unable to take part in any P.E. lessons.

During our topic we will be focusing on Geography, Science, Art, Technology, Music and Computing.

<p>In Geography, we'll be investigating: Comparing habitats/places</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers, and the water cycle. • How to use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied • How to use 8 points of compass, symbols & keys • How to locate counties, cities, regions & topographical features of UK. 	<p>In computing, we'll be learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make our own computer game based on the animals. • How to edit photographs using computer software 
<p>In Music, we'll be exploring: Composing soundtracks for different areas of the sanctuary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use voice & instruments with increasing accuracy, control and expression • How to improvise & compose music • How to listen with attention to detail • How to appreciate wide range of live & recorded music 	<p>In Art, we'll be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sculptures using natural objects based on Andy Goldsworthy's work. • Using printing, sketching and observational drawings. 
<p>In D&T, we'll be creating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-up cards to sell in our animal sanctuary. 	<p>In Science, we'll be investigating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What habitats different animals live in • Food chains and how they are interdependent on one another • The conditions animals need to survive • How animals are adapted to their habitat 

Thank you for your continued support. If there is anything you wish to discuss, please come in to school and we will be happy to talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Cooke

Miss C Fitzgerald

Mr C Jones