

spring: Neverland Newsletter

2023-2024

Marvellous materials



1839 + Bures School

Neverland Class Newsletter

Welcome to a new year! We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that you managed some time to rest, ready for this term.

Meet the team:

Miss Murphy will continue to be the class teacher for Neverland. We are also joined by Mrs Haworth (HTLA) every day; by Mrs Markwood (LSA) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; by Mrs Manning (LSA) on Monday to Thursday and by Miss Ollig (LSA) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Mrs Ray (HLTA) shall also be supporting the class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do ensure you come to speak to us. We really value your support.

This term our topic is guided by Science and History themes.

The History elements are as follows:

We will be learning about the lives of significant individuals. We will be focusing on Kings, Queens and Castles. The children will compare monarchs of different times that lived in the same castle and will have the opportunity to point out differences between the monarchs of the past.

The Science elements are as follows:

In Science we will be learning about 'Everyday Materials' focusing on what these are and how they can be used, what they are suitable for and unsuitable for. For example bricks are strong and waterproof; they make good houses, plastic and glass are transparent; they make good windows, paper is not waterproof; it makes a bad raincoat. We will carry out some experiments to find out what these materials are suitable for.

In English we will continue to build on our phonics work from the previous term, continuing

to learn new digraphs and trigraphs to help with our decoding of texts and to apply to our spelling of words. We shall also build on our writing skills, continuing to improve our breadth of vocabulary and understanding of how to form groups of words into sentences with consistent use of finger spacing and basic punctuation.

In Maths, we follow White Rose, building on our understanding of place value knowledge to 20 and beyond to 50. We will also begin to learn about addition and subtraction within numbers to 20 and 50 as well as exploring other topics such as measures, including length mass and volume. We will work on mental recall of numbers to 20 daily.

In RE, we use the 'Emmanuel Project' scheme of learning. Our first unit is Hinduism, focusing on devotion and the festival of Holi. The following half term, the unit will be Christianity, focusing on Resurrection and Joy.

In Geography, we will continue to deepen our understanding of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. We will then take a deeper look at one of the small Scottish Islands, 'Coll' (perhaps known as Katie Morag's island) and compare life there to life in Bures.

In Art we shall continue to develop our skills in sketching as well as learning new techniques in printing. Next half term, we shall continue to build understanding of Design and Technology techniques in building structures.

In PE, we shall be developing children's fundamental movement skills in gymnastics, dance and small sided ball games. Our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Thursday PE sessions may be outside and as the weather gets colder your child will need a warm tracksuit and trainers. Please provide a drawstring bag (not a rucksack). Please ensure that earrings are removed before school. Our weather is very changeable and we go out in all weathers so please send your child to school with a **waterproof** coat daily. Please make sure that all clothing is labelled with **your** child's name- especially if you have inherited it from someone else!

Regular reading aloud is vital to children's vocabulary and fluency development. The more regularly you read with your child at home, the more quickly they will progress. Hearing your child read doesn't have to take long and as your child gets longer and longer books it may not be practical to hear them read the whole book. We ask that your child reads their book three times before it is changed. We have also shared with you the phonic sounds that we have learnt so far as well as the tricky words. Spending some time each week on these, is really important in helping children to develop speed and accuracy with their reading.

The following **home learning challenges** have been set for this term and we suggest that the children choose a minimum of two learning challenges per half term. We will celebrate the completion of these challenges during the term....

- Visit Colchester Castle and the park.
- Find out about a King or Queen of England.
- Discover what materials your house is made of and draw a labelled diagram.
- Create a list of materials you can find around your home and garden.
- Build a castle out of cardboard boxes, bricks, building blocks, construction kits, etc.
- Find out about different types of castles, what are their names and what are they made out of.
- Find out how many Kings and Queens of England there have been.
- Find out about castle life- who were knights and what was their job? Who worked in a castle kitchen? Who lived in a castle? Who were jesters? Did you have to be a king to live in a castle?

Thank you for your continued support 😊