

Congo Class Newsletter—Y3/4

January 2017



Welcome back to all our children and families, and hope you all had a happy Christmas break. It is great to see the children back refreshed and eager to learn.

Our main topic this term is The Egyptians. We will be learning about their way of life, their habits and customs and even the Curse of the Tombs. **We are also in the process of planning a visit to Norwich Castle, to see their Egyptian exhibits, on Monday 20th February! (You will be receiving a letter soon — this is just a date for your diary.)**

The Brainbuilders Home Learning books will continue to go out every Friday, for the following Wednesday. We will continue to give out Maths (often x tables) and Literacy/Topic. Home Learning should ideally support, reinforce or prepare children with their learning, and we aim to make this varied, fun and not too parent-intensive.

For ICT this term, children will be learning about Programmable Toys. We hope to put some work on our Learning Platform very shortly to support this. Please note this is a safe and supported site for children to try their skills at blogging, emailing and using chatrooms.

Reading—whilst we know that most children read regularly, please remember that **it really helps us if Home School Books are signed by an adult at home.** Our certificate system has now been in place for over a year. Children enjoy working towards and collecting different reading certificates. Please support us by hearing children read regularly OR talking with them about their book choices (if they are independent readers).

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HEAR READERS, EITHER AT THE START OR END OF THE DAY. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK.

Other topics—in science we will be investigating Rocks and Soils, which will include sorting, categorising and testing the properties of rocks and soils. Our PSHE theme this half term will be Getting on and Falling Out, where we will be discussing and playing games around the theme of friendship. Some of our assemblies will also be used to support this theme. In RE we will be planning in dedicated RE days later in the term. We found that children really enjoyed these last term. In French, we will be reinforcing our speaking skills, and learning about Pets and Parts of the Body. Our DT and Art topics will be tied into our main topic work, and so will be on the theme of The Egyptians. For our DT project, we will be making 3-d shoebox scenes so, if you have any spare shoeboxes, please bring them in (we are hoping to collect enough for one per child!).

Literacy—we will begin this term by looking at folk tales, using examples from Japan and West Africa. We will then move onto Information Texts, with a little Traditional Poetry, as a third genre. Throughout the week, we continue to develop our English skills through SPaG lessons (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar). Our focus this term will be on Homophones (words with different meaning which sound the same, like there, their and they're), how words change by adding suffixes and also different terms, like prepositions, clauses and compound words.



Maths

This half-term, we will be continuing our focus on Calculations, and also spending more time on Multiplication and Division. We will also be covering the topics of Measures (including using and converting different units, like litres and millilitres), Shape & Space (which will include area and perimeter) and Time. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to be able to tell the time confidently and accurately. If your child has a watch or alarm clock (analogue or digital), asking them about the time of day from time to time would be helpful!

X tables—as younger children become more confident about their tables now, we will be focusing on speed and accuracy and also the inverse. So, if your child knows that $10 \times 5 = 50$, they should also be able to tell you that $50 \div 5 = 10$. One of the best ways to practise x tables is using an app on a tablet, or DB Primary.

A big well done to all children who have been learning the guitar or piano—lessons will continue and you will be informed if there are any timetable changes. It's tricky learning an instrument and requires dedication and hard work. We are proud of all our budding musicians!

Diary Dates

(To follow shortly in whole school newsletter.)

Please remember recorder lessons are on a **Monday**. It would really help if you would check that recorders and folders are in school bags, ready for Monday morning.

Swimming will now be on Wednesday mornings, with Mr Taylor, and so children will have just one PE afternoon (Mondays). We will be starting our term with more of our Dance topic — the children are really enjoying this.