



Monday 18th April 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and that you had a wonderful Easter with your families. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you again for your kind donations to our Science Week last term. The children had a brilliant time making ice-cream, investigating what stops jelly from setting and learning about Jane Goodall.

This term, the children will continue to enjoy investigating a wide variety of chemical changes as part of our main Summer Science based Topic called Fizz, Pop, Bang! They will also be learning about volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes and tsunamis in our Geography topic - Why do People Live Near Volcanoes? During these lessons, we will be classifying rocks and I would very much like to invite the budding Dove geologists to bring in their specimens and create a class museum.

As always, it is going to be an action-packed term! I have tried to include the most important information for you below but please do see our Curriculum Map for further details.

PE

This term the children will be participating in Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Tag Ruby sessions with Coach Luke on a Monday. The year 3 children will also be swimming with me and some of our wonderful parent helpers on Tuesday afternoons. While we are out, the year 2 children will be enjoying a more peaceful classroom and the chance to work with Mrs Stroud on some core Reading and Maths skills as well as taking part in some wellbeing activities.

PSHE

The Doves are lucky enough to be having their turn again at Forest School during Summer 1, which I think we have timed rather well with (hopefully!) the start of the good weather! As per Mrs Rumney's letter, please can the children come to school on Fridays dressed appropriately for an afternoon outside.

During Summer 2, our PSHE topic is Healthy Relationships and in one lesson, we will be discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule - PANTS. The lesson will be delivered in a way that is fully age-appropriate. More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/> If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Art and Design

This term the children will be exploring textiles and their focus artists are Alice Kettle, Hannah Rae and Frank Bowling. They will be exploring cloth, thread and paint to create their own volcanic

inspired landscapes. If you have any textile based art at home, we would very much love to look at them in one of our art sessions on Friday morning.

Reading

We will continue to encourage the Doves to develop a love for Reading this term and as soon as every child has reached 100 Nights of Reading, we will be celebrating with a Reading Party. I also wanted to remind you all that Mrs C-C promised to buy a book for every child who reaches 250 Nights of Reading by the end of the year - so please do keep up-to-date with your child's reading record.

Phonics and Spellings

The year 2 children have been working so hard to complete the UL&S Phonics scheme and are now reaching their last few weeks. After half term, they will be moving onto weekly spellings like the Year 3 children.

We will continue to teach the year 3 children the spelling rules daily in class and would very much appreciate your support in helping them learn their weekly spellings. I am aware that for some children, the spellings are difficult. Please come and speak to me if you would rather your child learnt some simpler but still valuable words instead.

Year 2 KSI SATs

The government have finally abolished the formal KSI SATs testing in Maths and English for the year 2 children this year. However, Semley has been selected by the NFER to participate in a trial testing of some reading materials which will be carried out on Thursday 25th of April and Friday the 26th of April. The children will complete a brief (30 minute) Reading paper on the Thursday and a slightly longer Reading paper on the Friday. I will be in the room with the children to help maintain an environment they are familiar with. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to me about it. The representative from the NFER will take the papers away after the children have completed them and they will not be matched to the children in any way, nor will their scores be recorded. The purpose of the NFER papers is to test how accurate the papers are and not the children's abilities.

In the week beginning the 6th of May, we will be giving the children the government recommended reading and maths papers from this year to inform our teacher assessment. They will be carried out in class with me, just like any end of unit assessment. It will help me see how the children are performing against the end of year objectives and in turn support their transition into the Key Stage 2 Curriculum. My teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the summer term in their school report. The year 3 children will have their end of year assessments later on in the year.

Apologies for ending on such a formal note! Please be assured that we have lots of fun learning activities ahead. We will be ending this half term with an Arts Week and will be heading to Oyster's Coppice on Wednesday the 13th of June for our Woodland's Alive! adventure – more details to follow closer to the time.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or queries.

Best wishes,
Vicky Gambier