

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. I hope you all had a relaxing break and I look forward to hearing stories and seeing photos of your travels. Please encourage your children to write about their experiences on the school blog. I read them all and a selection will be added for all to read if your child agrees.

This term's overall topic is "Inventors and Inventions" and will include us looking through history, into the future and designing our own invention. If you have any ideas, suggestions or experience within this topic area please do let me know.

Please do check and read the school blog regularly. Each child has their own login to allow them to post and comment at home. All comments and posts are reviewed before going live. You can visit the blog and login at: www.gillamoorschool.edublogs.org

Maths

This term we are continuing with the successful maths split. I will work with year 3 and 4 and Mrs Tweddle will have year 5 and 6. It is intended that we will split Monday – Thursday, although this may change on occasion. Maths lessons will have the usual emphasis on number work as well as of shape and measure modules. There is a continued push for juniors to know by heart their times tables and number bonds to 100. These key areas will help your children throughout the subject.

Literacy

Literacy will be taught around three main areas: fiction, non-fiction and poetry, these will be where possible, linked to our topic. Some of the areas to be studied this term include:

- Fiction: significant children authors and play scripts
- Non-fiction: letters, recounts and persuasive writing
- Poems: nonsense verse, limericks and rhyming forms

Spelling, punctuation and grammar sessions will be taught 3-4 times a week and will continue to develop existing knowledge. A weekly spelling test will continue to be given out on a Friday and tested the following Friday. Guided Reading sessions will be a little different in the first half term as preparations are made for the P-Factor competition and the meet the author session. These sessions shall be split between year 3/4 and year 5/6.

Every junior has their own reading book and reading record to keep track of when and how much they have read, please do add a comment when you hear your child read. It doesn't have to be a school reading book, other suitable books can be read, both fiction and non-fiction and recorded in your record book. Reading regularly is very important to developing literacy skills, as such it is advised that children read on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to: read regularly, keep their reading record up to date and change their book frequently.

Cooking

Cooking is generally on a Tuesday with Mrs Turner. Please see the newsletter to see when your child is cooking and what to bring.

French

French will take place once a week, usually on a Wednesday with Mrs Tweddle

P.E

Mr Mullholland will once again be teaching a weekly session on a Wednesday afternoon.. As many of our sessions as possible, weather permitting, will take place on the sports field so please ensure that your child has suitable trainers, dark coloured shorts or jogging bottoms and a plain coloured t-shirt. It is very important that children have the correct kit in school for every lesson. Records will be kept of children having to borrow items and a follow up letter shall be sent home. We will have one more cricket session in the next few weeks to complete a three week course started in the summer term. Swimming will continue to be on Friday mornings, again please send your child with appropriate kit (girls - full swimming costume and boys- swimming trunks). If any child wears ear rings, then please make sure they are either removed or covered for all P.E and swimming sessions. Long hair must be tied back for all PE sessions.

Topic

The Inventors and Inventions topic offers the children a chance to delve deep into the past and think about how items we take for granted have changed the world. A particular focus on Roman inventions shall form part of our history study. The children will consider what inventions are most important to them, how have simple items changed and been developed over time, have these changes been seen in their families living memory? We will be looking and thinking of new uses for everyday items. We'll be studying where objects originated from and have a try at inventing something of their own.

Our focus in RE for this term shall include studying the Humanist way of living. If you are new to the term the description on humanism.org.uk states that: "Humanist is used today to mean those who seek to live good lives without religious or superstitious beliefs." As well as this we are still hoping to arrange a trip to visit a mosque or have a speaker come into school. Lastly as it is that time of year again we'll be spending time looking at the Christmas journey and working on our Christmas productions.

Homework

As well as the homework programme devised by Mrs Tweddle for the year 5 and 6 children, a piece of whole class homework will be expected to be completed once per week and brought into school by Thursday morning.

Each child has been given a homework folder and a piece of paper with 10 homework tasks linked into our topic. One of these should be completed each week, which one is up to the child depending on the time they have available that week, as some will take longer than others. Each homework completed will be rewarded with a Lego brick, bonus bricks can be awarded for presentation and effort.

Each week there will also be spellings and a times table to practice. These shall form part of a weekly quiz to take place on Friday mornings.

I hope your children are looking forward to this new year as much as I am. Please do come and see me if you would like to contribute to any subject area or if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Dean