

KEW RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter for Spring Term 2015

Dear Monkey Parents and Carers,

Well, Monkey class has had an amazing first term! We have learned so much about life in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and now we know how real archaeologists work. I must say, I have been thrilled with the quality and consistency of the children's creative home learning – the whole class has learned so much from the variety of work which has been shared. Thank you for helping and encouraging your child to do this. In science we have made interesting discoveries investigating the properties of magnets and springs, while in maths many of us are well on the way to learning to tell the time. In English everyone has worked very hard and we are all becoming much more mature at writing and are now beginning to edit and improve our work. I have noticed real improvements in everyone's swimming techniques and stamina and look forward to seeing even more progress over the next term. We all enjoyed Art week and produced some beautiful fantastical creatures. Well done Monkeys, keep up the good work!



Our next topic, which will last until Easter, is **Rivers**.

The children will be learning to describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including climate zones and the water cycle. They will be learning to use maps, atlases and digital computer mapping to locate and describe features and even carrying out fieldwork to research our local river - the Thames! The children will go on to strengthen their understanding of geographical similarities and differences through a study of human and physical geography in the UK in contrast to a region of South America (the Amazon).

Some websites which may be of interest to start your research are:

<http://www.ngkids.co.uk/did-you-know/amazon-facts>

<http://www.kidsdiscover.com/spotlight/the-amazon-for-kids/>

English: To begin the term, we will be writing, non-fiction texts to create an information booklet about wildlife in the Amazon. After that, we will be reading 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne. We will be undertaking some drama-based work and learn how to write a play script. Finally, we will learn how to write formal and informal letters.

Maths: We will be learning to accurately measure length and capacity, further develop our knowledge of finding fractions of amounts, learning to find divisions with remainders and finding out about angles and how to work out the perimeter of a given shape. Children should continue to practise their times tables each week.

Science: Teeth and eating will be the area of focus this term. Children will be learning about the different food groups and why we need to eat a variety of foods. They will also be finding out about a range of animals' diets. The children will learn about the types and functions of teeth and find out about how to keep their teeth healthy. After half term, the characteristics of materials will be our science topic and we will be looking at different materials and testing them for their properties and uses.

Geography: This term we will be learning about the physical and human geography of rivers and we will compare and contrast the Thames and the Amazon.

Art: In Art we are going to study the way that different artists have represented water in their work. We will investigate our own responses to water and experiment with a variety of techniques and media.

PE/Games: The children will be taught PE by Motiv8 on Thursdays this year, please remember to send them in with full PE kits.

Swimming: Continues every Monday and children will need to bring a full swimming kit to school. This must be a swimming costume or trunks, swimming caps, goggles and towel.

Options: Options continue and take place on Friday afternoons. New options for Spring will be given out after Christmas.

Music: The children will be continuing music with our new experienced music teacher Holly.

French: During the Spring term we will be exploring the French children's book *Je m'habille et je te croque!* with the language focus on clothing, colours, days and months as well as numbers. We will be building both written and spoken sentences and explore genders and plural words. We will also start using bi-lingual dictionaries. In French we will also look at customs for epiphany, pancake day and Easter.

PSHCE: Our focus this half term will be 'Going for Goals'. Children will think about the type of learner they are, consider the purpose of setting goals for themselves and think about how they can reach the goals they have set.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE): This term we will focus on differences between males and females and name body parts as well as exploring family differences and challenging stereotyping.

RE: In RE, we will learn about the events in the life of Jesus. Children will learn some of the stories Jesus told and some of the things he did.

Computing: In ICT, we will continue to develop our research and publishing skills using a range of programs. Our ICT lessons will be linked to our mountain topic, and will use our computing skills to prepare presentations to share our learning with our peers.

Home learning: Home learning for reading, spellings and Maths is handed out every Thursday and must be given in every Tuesday. The children have reading record books and these should be completed by your child on a daily basis and must be handed in every Tuesday as part of the home learning. Please ensure your child reads for at least 10 minutes every day.

Creative Home Learning will be given out at the beginning of the half term – children can choose to complete the tasks set or do something of their own choice. Each week their Creative Home Learning should be brought into school on Tuesday along with their Home Learning book.

Request: We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages so, if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

Question Time: If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and have a chat. Alternatively you can make an appointment to meet me straight after school on Tuesdays.

Many thanks for your support this term and I hope that you all have a lovely holiday and wish you a Happy New Year.

Dates for the diary:-

5 th January	Inset Day
6 th January	Term Starts
9 th January	Extension Swimming Starts
12 th - 14 th January	Safer Walking Scheme - Monkey Class
12 th January	First Swimming Lesson – Monkey Class
20 th January	Royal Holloway University - Monkey Class
29 th January	Wetlands Centre – Monkey Class
17 th – 21 st February	Half Term



Jane and Joyce