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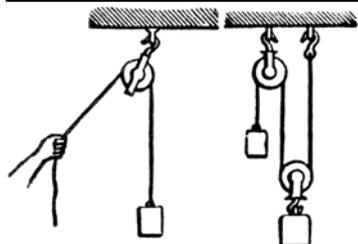
Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

Friday 13th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year, if I have not already done so on the playground.

Topics for the Spring Term



Our topic for the first half-term is **Let's Move It**. During this topic, pupils will make links between Science and Design and Technology. They will learn about some of the five basic mechanisms including: levers, pulleys, and cams. Pupils will encounter the terms 'force', 'load', 'weight' and 'fulcrum' and will investigate these in a series of practical activities. They will understand how a force can be applied to create movement and use this knowledge when designing and

building moving mechanical toys. Following the success of 'The Great Shaduf Challenge' at the end of Term 1, we will be organising 'The Marvellous Mechanical Workshop' for pupils to showcase their moving mechanisms on Thursday 9th February.

In the second half of the Spring Term, we will be moving on to **Bright Sparks** which will be a Science-based unit of work. We shall look at simple electrical circuits, the role of insulators and conductors and then move onto magnetism.

Our RE unit of work will be **Pilgrimages**, where we will consider the big question 'Is a holy journey necessary for believers?'



For more information, you can view our Topic Wheels, which will be displayed on the school website.

Homework

Homework will be posted on the school website by 5.00pm on Friday evenings and will need to be returned to school on **Wednesday** in order for books to be marked and sent back out on Friday.

Parents Evening

There will be formal parent / teacher meetings on 22nd/23rd March, where we will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far and targets for the year. An appointment sheet will be available nearer to the date.

PE

In the Spring Term, PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Thursday. Until February half-term, Apple Class will swim on Mondays and Club Energy will continue to teach the Thursday session.

It is essential that children have their named PE kit in school on these days. All pupils should have indoor and outdoor kit e.g. **shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls** for indoors and **track suit bottoms, a long sleeved top and trainers** for outdoor sessions. Pupils who do not have the correct footwear for each session will not be able to participate in the lesson. Children should keep their PE kit in school for the whole week rather than bringing it to school on given PE days, as this gives us the flexibility to work around the weather.

Earrings

Pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks have passed.) Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings. If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

Outdoor Learning Sessions

Outdoor learning is no longer timetabled for a specific session giving us the flexibility to work around the weather. However, we will continue to work with Bardwell on Wednesday afternoons during term 3, although for this term these sessions will be indoor.

It is vital that children have appropriate clothing available in school which may include trousers/tracksuit bottoms, warm jumper, waterproof coat and wellingtons (plus hats and gloves during cold weather). These clothes need to be separate from PE clothes as they are liable to get wet and muddy. Please send appropriate clothing in a named plastic bag.

All pupils should have a pair of outdoor shoes, separate from those they use in PE, in school at all times

Reminders

- **Water Bottles** – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. Please note that these bottles should only contain water (not squash, juice or flavoured water).
- **Hair** – please can you ensure that long hair is tied back or plaited. This helps ensure children's safety when using climbing equipment etc. and also curbs the spread of head lice.
- **Outdoor Shoes** – All pupils should be prepared for outdoor play by keeping outdoor shoes such as wellies and a warm, waterproof coat in school.
- **Absence and sickness** – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school until **48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhoea.**



Dates for your Diary - Please also check the school website on a regular basis.

Woodlands Residential Meeting for Year 4/5 parents: Monday 16th January at 5.15 pm in the hall.

KS2 SATs meeting: Wednesday 25th January at 6.00pm

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matter arising, you may email me directly on the following email address:

lgas3882@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Lindy Gascoigne

Apple Class