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Dear Parents and Carers,

Ash Class Summer Newsletter 2017

I hope you enjoyed a super Easter break, it seems like a distant memory already!

The children, however, have returned refreshed and ready for another busy term, which started with a fantastic trip for Lower School to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. We would like to say how proud we were of the children on this trip; they all behaved very maturely and were enthusiastically engaged in all the activities.

Topic and Learning for Terms 5 and 6

This term, our topic is **Pirates** with a focus on History and English. The children will be learning all about the fascinating history of pirates and piracy. We will be studying some famous pirates as well as making our own pirate ships in Design and Technology.



In English, we will be focussing on story writing and letters, where the children will be reading and listening to a range of stories about pirates before writing their own pirate-themed stories. Then we will be writing letters from aboard a pirate ship explaining what life is like for one of the crew. In Maths, we will be continuing to work on addition and subtraction, focussing on the expanded and contracted column methods. We will also be looking at telling the time on analogue and digital clocks. In RE, our unit of work looks at 'belonging'. We will be thinking particularly about communion as a Christian ritual and at other ways Christians show their belonging to the church.



Next term, our work will have a focus on computing and geography. The children will be comparing our local area with non-European country (Caribbean Island), looking at maps, weather and land use. In Computing, the children will be coding using a range of programmes. Our Science work will be looking at different marine habitats. Our topic will be **Under the Sea**.

As usual, this term's topic web is available on the school website.

Staffing and Timetable Arrangements

Our usual weekly routine is that Mr Craven will teach on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with Mrs Salter teaching all day on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Miss Mansfield and Mrs Thorne will also be supporting the learning in Ash Class throughout the week.

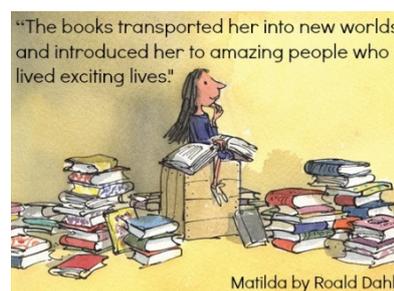
On **Thursday** afternoons, the children will have a PE session taught by a member of the coaching staff from Club Energy, who will be covering racket skills and athletics.

On Friday mornings, the children will be taught by Mrs Broadhead (our specialist Music teacher) and the Year 3 children will continue with recorder lessons.

We are all committed to the care and education of your children and meet regularly as a team to plan; discuss children's progress and share information.

Reading, Spelling and Homework

Reading at home is an important and valuable opportunity for children to practise their skills and should be encouraged every day, for about 10 – 15 minutes. Please record comments in your child's diary, or ask them to write a comment! Reading diaries should be in school every day, so that we can record reading activities that they do in school time.



Please encourage your child to change their book once it is finished and if you feel that your child is doing really well at home and the books are becoming too easy, please let us know and we will assess whether they are ready for the next stage.

Our new homework and word lists for Term 5 will be available on our website this week, but if you have already done some work at home related to our topic, we will find the time for this to be shown in class. We ask that homework completed is handed in each **Wednesday**, so that it can be marked and time can be found towards the end of the week for any sharing of tasks when appropriate. Homework books will be returned home on a **Friday**.

Summer Weather



Hopefully, the weather will continue to improve, so it is essential that the children have a hat and sunscreen (name labelled please) in school every day. Children should apply sunscreen before school on sunny days and we'll encourage them to top up as necessary.

Important Dates:

Film Night 'The BFG' – Friday 12th May
May Day celebrations – Thursday 25th May
Prayer Space – 6th, 7th and 8th June
Ash Class celebration worship – Friday 15th June
School Sports Day – Thursday 29th June
Summer Fayre – Saturday 1st July
Changeover Day – Wednesday 19th July



Please remember to check the 'What's On' section of the school website for further dates and information.

Contact

Should you need to contact us about any matters arising, you may email us direct on the following email addresses:

jcra8965@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

ksal7720@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we are often busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we will endeavour to reply to you within 3 working days.

Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child then you should contact the school office or speak to one of us at the start of the day.

Kind regards,

Mr Craven and Mrs Salter