

Thornford Church of England Primary School

Information for Spring Term 2019

P.E: Monday and Tuesday afternoons	PE sessions will take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The children will do indoor & outdoor games/activities and indoor gymnastics. Please ensure that kits fit and are in school (and all the parts are there!). Children with long hair will need hair bands to tie back their hair. If your child has their ears pierced, please can they either remove their earrings on PE days or bring tape to cover them. Thank you.
Music Mrs Young	We will be exploring elements of music through singing and action games. We will continue to use simple instruments to help us compose music and accompany our songs.
Computing	We will be using apps such as Atlas to help us explore geographical concepts. We will also be using the computer programs Revelation Natural Art for colour mixing and Flexitree to create a branching database of animals by type and food chain type (e.g. herbivores etc).
Art & Design, Design & Technology (DT)	In Art, we will be investigating the artist Van Gogh and creating our own masterpieces using paint and oil pastels.
R.E.	We will be looking at the key questions: Was it always easy for Jesus to show Friendship? and Why does Easter matter for Christians?



Beech Class - Years 1 & 2:

Teacher: Mrs Norris

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Thompson & Mrs Butcher

Theme for the term: Light and dark

<http://www.thornford.dorset.sch.uk/classes/beechn/>

General Information

Reading Books

The reading books that your child brings home are homework books, to encourage them to become independent readers. It is particularly helpful if your child can read to an adult at home on a regular basis (at least 3 times a week) and their reading record book updated accordingly. This enables your child to work towards reading rewards, to celebrate all the reading they do.

Please note that your child does not need to finish the book every time they read. It is more valuable to spend some time reading and then afterwards to discuss what they have just read, ensuring that they understand the words and what is happening. If your child reads a 'home' book, this will also count towards their reading rewards, so please let us know by writing it in their reading records. Please make it clear when your child has **finished** their book (as well as noting other reading), so that we can change them. We check the records daily. Once they become fluent readers, the children do not always need to read aloud, but can instead read a section to themselves and talk about what they have read with an adult. **For ideas, please see our website.**

Within school, we carry out a range of other reading activities, including phonics; guided reading, where the teacher hears individuals read and then a group discusses the text, and shared reading, where the class reads together.

Spellings & Home Learning

Spelling tests will take place on Friday mornings, and new spellings are usually given out on that day, to allow your child a week to learn them. ***These spellings will also be posted on the website on Fridays.*** Year 1 children will be given 6 words, and Year 2 children will be given 10 words, which will reflect the spelling patterns we have been learning in the week and reinforce their class phonics sessions.

Weekly home learning activities will usually take the form of a paper based activity to return to school. The due date should be clearly marked (usually given out on a **Thursday** for return on the **following Thursday**). If your child needs adult support to complete their homework, it is helpful if this is noted on the sheet, so that we can see which areas they need to work on in more detail. Thank you.

English	In English, we will continue to reinforce the punctuation and grammar we have already learnt, through writing stories, poetry and non chronological reports, linking to our theme. In spelling, we will be learning more suffixes and how they affect the spelling of the root word, along with using a range of strategies to learn by heart the spelling of common exception or 'tricky' words. The website www.oxfordowl.co.uk has a huge range of free ebooks and accompanying activities. Our class username and password are both beech (all lowercase).
Maths	In Maths, we will continue to work on maths mastery using the 'Maths No Problem' resources. This approach allows child to explore concepts in different ways and look at different representations of numbers and problems. At home, children can practice representing numbers to 20 in different ways, for example with toys, pasta or counters) and working out the pairs that make smaller numbers, e.g. 9 or 12. This will help with both addition and subtraction.
Science	In science, we will identify common animals, looking at their structure and investigating whether they are herbivores, carnivores or omnivores and how they fit into a food chain. We will also be thinking about plant and animal life cycles.
Humanities (History/Geography)	Our main focus this term will be geography, with a history focus in the summer term. In history, we will reinforce our knowledge of chronology. In geography, we will be learning about the continents of the world and the hot and cold parts of the globe. We will also be focussing on Fair Trade and comparing St. Lucia with Great Britain.

Show & Tell

This speaking & listening opportunity takes place on **Friday** afternoons and allows the children to share any 'news'. It does not have to fit in with our topic. Please ensure that children do not bring valuable or fragile items to school. Thank you.