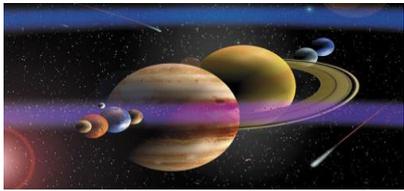


Dear Parents/Carers,

A short note to familiarise yourselves and your child to the curriculum in Year 3/4. This letter will give you some general information about the topic for the Spring Term.

<p>Adventures in Space</p>  <p><u>The Earth, Sun and Moon in the Solar System.</u></p>	<p>Rock On Through The Ages</p>  <p><u>Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.</u></p>	<p>Raiders of the UK</p>  <p><u>Viking raids and invasion.</u></p>
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Curriculum

At Carlton Central Junior School we teach a 'topic based curriculum' and most subjects are taught in a cross curricular fashion. Teaching in this way creates a more meaningful learning experience for the children as they can apply the knowledge and skills learnt in one subject to others. This reinforces their learning and increases their understanding and confidence. As part of our 'Rock On Through The Ages' topic, the following subjects are taught:

Science

The children will learn how different types of rock are created and will be able to identify the different features of rocks. They will also learn how different rocks can be useful depending on their specific properties. The children will then learn how soil is created and will engage in scientific investigations into separating out the different components of soil.

Art/Design and Technology

We are starting off by researching Stone Age cave paintings and learning how to re-create the ancient techniques using charcoal. Then the children will design and make their own scale models of a typical Stone Age statue. They will learn how to use clay to create their sculptures and also how to select the appropriate sculpting tools for the job.

English

Each class is focusing on our class book, 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura followed by the classic 'Stig of the Dump', by Clive King. Children will produce several types of writing including: diaries, explanations, letters, mystery stories and non-chronological reports.

Reading

Each child is allocated with a school reading book. This will be at an appropriate level for them. Any reading at home or school will be recorded in their personal organisers. We ask that you share a book with your child each evening for ten minutes.

Spellings

Spellings will continue to be given out on Mondays and the spelling test will be on Fridays. This year, spellings will be taught daily and will focus on a specific sound/pattern/rule.

History

In this topic the children will start off learning about late Neolithic (Stone Age) hunter-gatherers and early farmers. They will also learn about early religions, technology and even Stone Age travel. Moving on to the Bronze Age, the children will learn about the early Celtic tribal kingdoms and all that was involved in their culture.

Computing

We are using exciting software called Scratch to create a program which includes sequence. The children will learn how to change their chosen avatar and manipulate its movements to create a dance sequence. They will also experiment with using repeated instructions to create shapes and patterns.

Maths

This term we start with learning written methods for subtraction and addition and how to apply these methods when solving real life word problems. Estimating and comparing measures comes next, followed by constructing and interpreting different types of graphs. Then it's Fractions where the children learn how to recognise equivalent and decimal forms, Measurements, Multiplication and Division. The whole school is still focusing on times tables and children will be challenged to recall each times table (up to x12) in less than twenty seconds. Your help and support in working at home with the children to develop their tables' knowledge would be much appreciated.

PSHE (Personal and Social Health Education)

Going For Goals. The children will learn about their individual learning styles and will set themselves personal goals. They will be encouraged to foresee obstacles and to plan to overcome them when setting these goals. Coping strategies to manage frustration and stress will be taught and practised.

RE

The children will again focus on religions found in the local area and will learn about the important values that each religion is based on. This will be linked to customs and values of the earliest Stone Age religions.

PE

We are starting off with gymnastics then moving on to multi-skills and finally dance.

British Values.

Throughout our topic the children will learn the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The importance of laws and mutual respect will be promoted through our story 'The Stone Age Boy' when establishing jobs for the Stone Age community. Children will learn the importance of individual liberty when working on cave paintings and exploring ways of self-expression. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs will be taught during RE.

Educational Visits

On 23rd March we are going to Conkers in Leicestershire to take part in a Stone Age Theme Day. The day will include exciting workshops where the children will learn how Stone Age hunter gatherers lived. On 3rd February Rowan and Oak class are visiting the Lakeside Arts Centre at Nottingham University. During this visit the children will engage in a Literacy Workshop where they will use the artwork in the galleries to inspire creative writing. Silver Birch are visiting Lakeside on 9th February.

Other Curricular events this term

On Tuesday 10th January we visited the Theatre Royal to watch this season's pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. On 9th January the children took part in our 'Stone Age Day'. The day involved everyone dressing up as a cave man/woman and taking part in educational activities such as cave painting and rune breaking. One class also enjoyed a session of Forest Schools activities - the other classes will have this opportunity in due course.

Whole School Homework.

Homework continues to be given out on a Tuesday. Maths is given out every Tuesday and the children have one week to complete it. Maths homework is always linked to the topic studied that week. Whole school homework this term is going to be linked to the current topic. Children will be able to pick their homework task from a range of exciting options! Some of the fantastic pieces that were created for our Adventures in Space topic in the Autumn Term were truly 'out of this world'. Spellings are given out every Monday.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you require any further information. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

D Patchett

K Daly

K Mallon

T Schofield