



Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School

Sherborne Abbey Primary School
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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the first term of this school year. This term our topic will be Explorers. This letter gives a snap-shot of what we will be learning over the next 14 weeks. Please do contact us if there is any matter you wish to discuss.

Literacy – In Literacy, we will spend the first half-term focusing on Shackleton's journey by William Grill, writing diaries, reports, explanations and stories. Following half-term, we will focus on a writing project about the Victorians.

Maths - In maths this term we will begin by revising the four mathematical operations, with particular focus on solving word problems. Then we will study decimals, percentages and fractions (including +, -, x and of both mixed numbers and proper fractions). We will then be studying types of quadrilaterals and triangles and introducing basic geometric rules for these 2D shapes and circles.

Art – Steam Punk Dolls The children will design and sew their own steam punk doll, a futuristic Victorian toy.

Geography - Exploring the Antarctic In this subject, which will tie in with our Literacy work based on the adventurer Ernest Shackleton, we will be learning about the Antarctic, exploring how the continent is represented on maps and how environmental factors are shaping its future. We will study this subject in the first half-term.

History - The Victorians After half-term, we will begin learning about the Victorians and how they have impacted on our lives at a national and local level.

DT – Moving Toys The children will design and make moving toys that use a cam mechanism.

Science – Space and Forces In the first half-term, when we study our Space topic, we will be learning to describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, around the sun; the movement of the moon around the earth; how the Earth's rotation on its axis creates night and day; and, how its orbit round the sun causes the seasons. When studying forces, we will learn about gravity; the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction; and, how mechanisms allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Music – In music, we will be learning to sing and play cyclic patterns, exploring different rhythms and pulses and how to sing a simple round in two or more parts.

Computing – Digital Photography The first computing topic will see the children learning how to take a photograph on a digital device and then using photo editing software to modify it.

Guided Reading, Spelling and Grammar – Children will continue to engage with the Accelerated Reader scheme. Children will read every day, taking quizzes to measure their comprehension when they have completed their books. In addition to this, some children will benefit from reading to volunteers who come into school and working in small booster groups out of class. All children will also be involved in weekly guided reading sessions. To promote better more consistent spelling skills, children will be involved in daily spelling and grammar activities.

Maths and Literacy and Homework – Children spend an hour a day engaged in each of these core subjects. Weekly tests are held for times tables. Maths and Literacy and tables homework is set on Friday and needs to be in by the following Wednesday.

PE and Games – Tag Rugby, Football, Netball, Gymnastics and Swimming In the first half-term, for Mr Garnett's class, Tag Rugby will be held on Monday and Gymnastics will be held on Tuesday. For Mr McAney's class, swimming will be on Tuesday and Tag Rugby will take place on Thursday. After half-term, Mr Garnett's class will have swimming on Tuesday and football (for the boys) and netball (for the girls) on a Monday (Thursday for Mr McAney's class).

For gymnastics, children need to wear a red t-shirt and black shorts. Children are encouraged to bring in tracksuit bottoms, socks, studded boots and warm jumpers for outdoor activities, especially in the colder, muddier winter months.

Yours sincerely

Mr McAney and Mr Garnett
Year 6 teachers