



Nanpean C P School
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Wednesday 6th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

September has finally arrived and we hope everyone has enjoyed a positive summer break. Mrs Williams, Mrs Kitts and I cannot wait to begin the new academic year.

Curriculum: Rosemellyn start autumn term with a topic called '***Who Is Taking Control?***' In this unit of work, we will explore the idea of control through electricity and robot machines. Our topic title comes from the question of whether machines will take control in the future as well as how our lives are touched by machines and inventions (both real and fictional). As a way in to the two writing genres we will study this half term (explanation texts and story writing), we find ourselves in the wonderful world of Wallace and Gromit and the many *cracking contraptions* the two fictional inventors created. Our class text is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and much of our Reading Comprehension will be connected to this book. Science sessions will look at building circuits and art will be based around giant structures such as *The Angel of the North* designed by Antony Gormley.

During the second half of autumn term, our class topic takes a history based theme as we explore the '***Battle of Britain***' which approaches this subject through poetry created at the time as well as works of fiction constructed using historical facts. We will send more information on this as we approach it.

Key Areas of Learning: All children will be taught English and Maths every day. Wherever possible we will incorporate our topic into these areas of core learning. **English** work in Year 6 covers **Reading Comprehension** through the analysis of text and group discussions as well as written opportunities to help prepare your children for end of year assessments. It is important to inject a healthy balance of these kinds of activities so that the children are able to show their understanding of reading comprehension with clearly constructed written explanations and verbal responses to texts from a variety of authors and sources. We practise these skills at school and also provide the children with independent opportunities in some of the English homework tasks set. Books which the children borrow for home reading are changed following the completion of an *Accelerated Reader* quiz. Once completed the children are asked to change their book themselves and we encourage at least 5 (10 minute) reading sessions per week. Each session will require an adult signature in the reading record for verification to count towards our new reading reward scheme. Reading is obviously of vital importance for the children's progress. Children who do not read 5 times per week will be given opportunities to make up the time in school during play times.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS or SPaG) is taught both in standalone sessions and weaved into our **creative writing lessons**. Rosemellyn will deconstruct how writers piece their work together as well as using this knowledge to build more technical writing skills into their own writing.

The end of Key Stage 2 SATs (*Standard Attainment Tests*) also include papers which check children's understanding of GPS and by combining these skills into our writing sessions we will be able to give a true reflection of understanding in this area of English. Again, there will be SPaG related homework tasks to support children in showing this knowledge independently.

Over the next six (and a half) weeks, we will study two main blocks of work in the *number* strand of **Maths**: *Place Value* and *Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division*.

Homework: The children will receive their homework on a **Friday**. They will have two homework books: one for Maths and one for English based activities. Challenges will always be explained clearly during the Friday afternoon session and there will be a link to what we have been learning in class. It is expected that homework will be completed and **handed in the following week each Wednesday**. If homework is not received on a Wednesday, then children will be asked to complete this in school during play times. Homework will be set from Friday 15th September. Children will be tested on spellings and multiplication facts. Time is built into lessons to practice these, but your child will bring home a copy to give them a further opportunity to practice. ***Quick recall of the times tables facts is an essential part of their Maths learning and weaknesses in this area can often causes barriers during calculation work.*** We would strongly advise that this is an area your child practises regularly, even if they already feel they know their tables up to 12.

PE: PE days are Tuesday and Thursday afternoon but we ask for your child to have their kit in school every day. We would like to remind you that PE kit consists of:

- ✓ shorts or leggings - black
- ✓ school PE top or plain white round necked T-shirt (no large print or design please)
- ✓ trainers or plimsolls
- ✓ socks
- ✓ tracksuits may be worn for outside PE during colder weather
- no earrings or jewellery to be worn for PE/swimming

(Please, if you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, can you do so at the start of the holiday. Also if your child could practise taking out/putting in earrings this would be a great help.)

Open Door Policy: The adults who will teach your children this year include: Mrs Jago (Class Teacher), Mrs Williams (HLTA), Mrs Kitts (Teaching Assistant), Mr Bacon (PE Apprentice) and Ms Trula (Spanish). We are immensely passionate about supporting your child's individual development; and want every child in our care to feel valued, respected and happy during their time with us. To make sure this happens, communication is very important. If you have any concerns throughout the year, please get in touch and we can arrange a time to talk.

Additionally, we welcome your feedback on any aspect of your child's time in Rosemellyn class and there will also be opportunities during the year when we would very much welcome your support. It may be to come in and listen to readers or support in practical lessons and activities. If you have any time or specific skills you can offer, please let us know.

Thank you for your support, we are looking forward to working alongside you and your children in the year ahead. Here's to a great autumn term!

Mrs Jago, Mrs Williams and Mrs Kitts
Rosemellyn team

