



Year 1 and 2

Term 4- Chocolate

Dear parents and carers,

It was great to chat with so many of you during parent teacher meetings last term and share how your child is doing in school. Term 4 is yet another exciting term where our focus is chocolate. We will be using this mouth-watering topic to inspire our writing in literacy, learn where chocolate is grown and how it makes its way to our shops. While we all love chocolate we will also be learning about the importance of a balanced diet.

Literacy



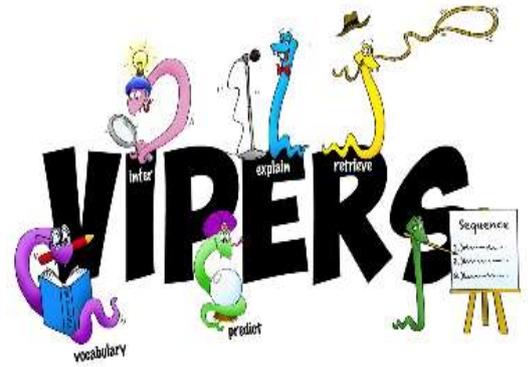
We start the term with poetry. We will watch Michael Rosen perform his poem 'Chocolate cake'; this is on our Google Classrooms if you would like to see it. We will learn a class poem and think about how to perform it, making it interesting for the audience, like Michael Rosen does. Using our class poem, we will look at the structure and the way we can play with words. This poem will be innovated to create our own individual chocolate poem. Our spelling focus in the poems will be using different suffixes including -ly, -er, -est, -ful and -ness. After that we will be using our class story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' to investigate the main characters and write descriptions about them, linking to what we have read. We will continue to write sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and the correct punctuation at the end. We will introduce contracted words to the children and how the apostrophe works in them. The Year 2s will also learn how to use apostrophes for personal possession. We will continue improving our handwriting and joining an increasing number of letters.

Spellings

Spellings will be handed out on a Thursday and tested the following Thursday. Spelling words will be stuck in reading diaries. Please help your child to learn these spellings. The words chosen will link to the sounds they have learnt in Phonics. To extend your child you can ensure they understand the meaning of the word and can include it in a sentence, either in oral or written form.

Reading

Children will be heard read individually, in groups and during whole class reading. When in groups and individually the focus will be on decoding, fluency and their understanding of the text. During Whole class reading they will focus on the skills needed to comprehend what they have read. We use Vipers to help the children with this. As well as a reading book that matches their decoding level, the children now have the option to take a book from our KS1 library. This may be a book they can read or one that they would like to share with you. The children listen to stories daily; these might be picture books or part of our chapter book - *this term we are continuing to read 'Charlie and the Chocolate factory' by Roald Dahl. Book bags and diaries need to be in school every day, so we can record reading that is done in school. The children's books will be changed at least once a week; please record any home reading in the reading diaries. The children show us their reading diaries each morning. The school competition for the class with the most home reads continues, and the school has been set a target of 40,000 by the end of the school year, let's see if we can smash that target!*



Science

In Science we revisit the work we did on materials and look at how some materials can have their shape changed by twisting, stretching, and squashing. With spring on the way, we will look for signs of spring and how this season is different to the other three. We think about how spring affects animals and plants due to the changes in the weather.

Maths

We continue to work through the Mastering Number project. The aim of this project is to develop a good number sense, so that children are more fluent in calculations more able to work flexibly with number. We have noticed that this project is really helping pupils to express what they notice about the relationship between numbers.

Miss Murray's Maths group will start the term by finishing off their unit on multiplication and division. They will then move onto the topic 'Statistics' where they'll look at a variety of data gathering methods, such as tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams. Once they've finished this unit, they will use the time left over to start 'Shape'. They will continue to have Times Tables tests every Friday - as always, any practise of the 2s, 5s, 10s, 11s and 3s is very appreciated and welcomed.

Mrs Alleway's and Mrs Parsons' maths groups are working on addition and subtract to 20. This relies on the children being able to read and count to 20. They also need to be secure in the place value of these numbers, so they recognise that teen numbers are made from a ten and an amount of ones. Please keep practising this with your child.

When adding to 20, we use our knowledge of pairs of numbers that total 10. Tens frames are great for seeing this clearly.

When subtracting within 20 we will be building on the language and become more familiar with using the symbol for subtraction. We use lots of objects and pictures as we secure our knowledge of how to complete subtraction problems. Once we are confident at subtracting within 20, we will be learning how to do it when we cross the 10. This involves partitioning numbers to find the remaining part. Our next topic is place value to 50; here we will be reading and writing numbers to 50 and recognising how many tens and ones a given number contains.

As a school, we have now moved over to Sumdog for our maths homework. Maths's homework is set weekly for both Year 1 and 2 children. Log ins are now all inside reading diaries. The activity will link to what they have done in class, but there are lots of different games children can explore and use to develop their maths skills. Please support your child but let them do the Maths if possible. Using 'stuff' (resources) eg counters, pennies and drawing to help them is very important. Year 2s also have log ins for Timetable Rockstars here they practice their timetable recall and speed.



Geography

This term's work builds on nicely from last term. We will be consolidating our knowledge of continents and where they can be found on globes and maps. We will be locating countries where chocolate comes from and looking at the journey it takes to get to the shops in Didcot. We will be learning the points of the compass and what geographical features are represented on a map. Using our map knowledge we will be devising simple maps of our classroom and Mr Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

DT

This term we are learning all about the importance of a balanced diet and how different foods help to support our bodies. For our end product we will produce a fruit salad. Along the way we will be evaluating fruit to decide which ones we would like to include; using a range of tools safely to peel, cut, slice, grate and squeeze different fruits; and then planning our fruit salad and deciding which tools will be needed for the chosen fruit. Finally the exciting part we will be making our own fruit salad.



PE

The children loved learning how to skip with a rope last term and we still have skipping happening at break times.

This term, the children will be developing their ball skills and gymnastics. In our throwing and catching lessons, we will be learning how to control a ball with our hands; developing accurate underarm throwing technique; and learning how to position ourselves to consistently catch a ball when working by ourselves or with a partner. We will be striking the ball with different bats and working on how to stop or retrieve a ball when playing simple games.

In gymnastics we will be learning how to move in different directions, speeds and levels and how we can link these movements, so they flow. We will be exploring rolling as a way of travelling. Once we can perform these movements with control we will travel on different pieces of apparatus safely.

PE lessons will be on the following days; please make sure your child wears their PE kit to school on the correct days:

Nightingales:	Tuesday and Friday
Robins:	Wednesday and Friday
Wrens:	Monday and Wednesday

RE

We will be looking at what Christians believe about Creation and answering the question, 'Who made the world?'. We will be thinking about the Christian belief that God created the world, with humans created to look after this, and learning what we can do to take care of our world.

Computing

This unit introduces the children to the term 'data'. We will begin to understand what data means and how this can be collected in the form of a tally chart. We will learn how to organise data so that we can present it in the form of pictograms and block diagrams.

PSHE

This term our Jigsaw topic is Healthy Me. We will think about what we need in order to be healthy and think about what choices we can make. We will learn how important sleep is to us, and how we can relax our bodies and minds. Linking neatly with DT, children discuss which foods their bodies need to be healthy and sort different food groups. With this knowledge they have a go at picking healthy snacks. We also look at how medicines can make us better if we are poorly, but that they must be used safely and according to the instructions.

Reminders

- Can the children keep in school a named pair of wellies and a named set of clothes including underwear.
- Please make sure that all jumpers and any items of clothing children might remove are named.
- Water bottles should only contain water and if possible, have a sports cap design.
- Children receive fruit daily. If your child wants to bring in a snack, please make sure these are fresh fruit or vegetables.
- When preparing home packed lunches, please be aware we have children with severe nut allergies in our key stage.