



Stratosphere.

Edition 50. September 2016.

The newsletter about learning! How to help your child really take off!

ACTIVE LEARNING:
DOING / THINKING / UNDERSTANDING

What are we learning this term?

Overview: how we plan to link learning this term!

Once again Stratosphere is here to inform you about the kinds of things your child will be learning about this term! If you have any expertise or interest in any of the areas of learning we would be thrilled to hear from you. Any help you can give us is very welcome. You may want to visit places of interest, go to the library to get books or research on the internet to enrich your child's learning experience. Hopefully this edition of Stratosphere will give you some ideas! Have fun! Remember to use the school website located at...

www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk

TOP TIP: When counting don't always start from 1. Start from different numbers! Remember to count backwards as well as forwards. Look for numbers around you and work out the number before and after that number!

Have fun.



A message from Mrs J. Watkins: Butterfly Class



'Autumn Days!'



A very "big welcome" to all the children who have joined Butterfly Class this term and 'welcome back' to our Year 1s! The most important focus for this term is for us all to get to know each other, making sure that each member of the class is happy, learns, understands and follows our routines and expectations. We want everyone to feel settled in Butterfly Class.

Our first topic is 'Autumn Days'. We will learn about plants and animals, particularly in our local area, and the changes that occur throughout autumn. We hope to go on lots of 'Welly Walks' around the school and local area, using our senses to observe the changes happening throughout the season. We will also collect 'signs of autumn' (leaves, conkers etc.) and use these resources to create our own art based on the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy.

We will look for different plants, trees and animals and mark these on our own maps. We will learn about how and what plants need to grow through planting winter flowering plants, onions and perhaps some others too; we really will have green fingers!

We will read 'Percy the Park Keeper' stories by Nick Butterworth and act out the stories in our role play area as we have created 'Percy's hut' outside. We are going to explore what it means to be 'friends' and think about what makes a good a friend. The stories about Percy and his animal friends will come in useful for this!

Our daily phonics sessions will help us to learn new sounds (phonemes), blend (put together) and segment (pull apart) them and read new words. These sessions will support us with reading the books and words we bring home.

We will also focus on recognising numbers 1-10 and matching numbers to objects. There will be lots of counting going on, starting with forwards and backwards to 10, and counting objects using one to one correspondence. We will also be comparing different objects, finding the tallest and shortest and using simple positional language (behind, in front, beside, etc.).

Mrs. Aylett will be taking Butterfly Class for music every Tuesday and we'll learn lots of nursery and playground rhymes and action songs, change words of songs to fit in with our topic and experiment with unpitched percussion.

It is going to be a very busy term with lots to learn and do! Please do not hesitate to come and see me or any of the adults in class if you have a question or concern.



A message from Miss Smith: Owl Class 'The Great Outdoors!'

This term our topic is called 'The Great Outdoors'. Our main focus is learning about plants and animals, particularly in our local area. This means we hope to go on local and use the school grounds to observe the plants and animals around us. We are going to learn about how plants grow and what they need, by setting up our own class experiments; hopefully we will learn enough to successfully grow our own plants.

The animals we learn about will be British animals and can be found in the books about Percy the Park Keeper by Nick Butterworth. We will share these books as a class. As well as learning about their habitats, their diets and how they grow, we will use these animals and Percy as inspiration for our own new Percy adventure. The facts we learn will also be written up as reports, so that others can learn more about animals that live in the UK.

Learning about the outdoors wouldn't be complete without learning about the seasons and UK weather. We hope to use the data logger to collect information about light and temperature. As the seasons begin to change we will follow the UK weather on the news and use this to predict and create our own weather reports. The seasons and weather will also be our inspiration for writing poetry.

In Music, we will sing topic-based and seasonal songs, working on expression, experiment with lots of percussion instruments and learn to read, play and clap basic rhythms.

In Mathematics we are focussing on the value of number, ordering and comparing. We will practise counting forwards and backwards from different numbers and use these skills to help us with addition and subtraction. We will link these counting patterns to our times tables.

Our artist of study is Monet and we will experiment with different media to create Monet-style landscapes of our own. This will link nicely to our computing where we will use different programmes to create digital artwork.

In history, we'll time-travel back to the beginning of Salisbury Cathedral. We'll find out about its as well as its very famous historic clock. As well as finding out about the past, in art we will develop our perspective drawing skills to draw a city with a futuristic skyline.

In science, we'll learn about electricity (a very important tool for Doctor Who and his time-travelling friends). We'll investigate different circuits as well as finding out about conductors and insulators. We'll use our new electrical knowledge in DT to design and make our own time machine. We'll use our time travel machine to help inspire us to write a story based on fantasy settings.

Mrs Aylett will be leading the music sessions. We'll develop our singing skills with topic-based and seasonal songs, learn more about pitch and rhythmic notation when playing glockenspiels and other percussion and compose travelling raps and songs. As well as sessions from Mrs Aylett, we will have weekly recorder lessons with Mr Walker.

In RE we will explore the religions of Judaism and Christianity. We will investigate the question: how do Jews show commitment to God'. After half term we will explore the question: what is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?

This term we will develop our rugby and netball skills. We will have weekly swimming sessions (Tuesdays) at Five Rivers Leisure Centre to improve our swimming skills.



A message from Mrs Wareham - Kestrel Class 'Raiders and Rumbles'



This term Kestrel Class will be looking at how dangerous our planet can be. We will learn about the natural dangers of earthquakes and investigate how vicious the Vikings were.



We will begin by looking at the life of a Viking and thinking about how their life is different to ours today. To experience life as a Viking we will write our own instructions to create a Viking cookbook and even make some Viking foods to try. As we travel along the Viking timeline we will collect lots of information to help us answer our big question: 'Were Vikings always vicious and victorious?'

Using stop-go animation, in our computing sessions, we will be able to make our own version of Viking raids. During music we will be composing our own background music to go with our animations.

To understand just how dangerous our world can be we will delve to the centre of the Earth as we learn about earthquakes and why they happen. To help us understand how earthquakes impact on people we will be looking at the April 2015 Nepal earthquake. Our investigations into the earthquake will help us to write newspaper reports during our English sessions. We will also be looking at how the landscapes of Nepal are different to ours as we sketch, paint and compare what we see through our window to what a child in Nepal might see.

During our PE sessions we will follow the example of the Vikings, as we learn to develop our skills in different invasion games. We will focus on netball, tag rugby, hockey and basketball between September and Christmas.

