



Pioneers' Autumn Newsletter



Welcome back to school! We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday. We are really pleased to see all of the children back and ready to learn.

This half-term we are going to begin our learning journey by exploring the concept of conflict and children's experiences of war. We will begin by learning all about life for children on the home front during WW2. Pioneers will discover about rationing, evacuation, the Blitz and propaganda. As part of our WW2 project, we will be encouraging the children to ask family members of any memories or family stories in relation to the second world war. Our first class novel will be 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr.

The children will undertake several DT projects: cooking with rations and sewing using the spirit of 'make do and mend'. Over the course of next week, the children will be researching and devising rationing recipes and they will have a cookery day on Monday 16th September to do their best MasterChef impressions! We will make sure the children bring a list of ingredients needed for their recipe before the weekend and would greatly appreciate it if they could come to school that day with them. A big thank you in advance!

After half term, the children will explore more recent effects of conflict and will gain a wider understanding of how and why children can become refugees and the impact this may have upon their lives as well as the journeys they may take.

Mini adventures and more curriculum information will be sent home once our initial start of term baselines are complete.

Reading and Spelling

The children will have brought home new reading books and will have the opportunity to change their reading books throughout each week. In reading sessions (including class novel study sessions), the children will be encouraged to articulate and record their responses to texts, in particular focussing on interpreting their ideas from the clues in texts (inference skills). Please encourage your children to read independently every day. Your child does not need to read aloud to you as their reading independence grows, but it would be valuable to discuss your child's reading with them and ask questions about what they are reading.

We will also follow a daily spelling session, focused on developing reading and spelling word families, pre-fixes and suffixes. Spellings sent home each week are tailored lists designed to address any spelling weaknesses identified from the curriculum word lists and will assess the spelling rule of the week.

Homework

Homework will be sent home in homework books every Friday, to be returned to us by the following Thursday. The children will be sent home with the spelling rule (alongside some examples) of the spelling pattern they have studied that week; their homework will be to practise this rule, find other words to which the rule applies and define these words to improve their vocabulary usage alongside their spelling accuracy. Spellings will be tested on **Thursdays**. The children will also bring home a Big Maths Beat That (BMBT) and CLIC homework sheet. The BMBT is a timed challenge, where the children solve the calculations facts as fast as they can. The CLIC sheet challenges the children to complete the calculations by applying the core calculation facts that they know. The children will also complete the BMBT and CLIC challenges in class every Thursday. If your child gets full marks in two consecutive weeks, they will move up to the next step.

Planners

The children will have no doubt shown you our shiny new planners! In these, please can the children record their daily independent reading, spelling rules for the week and any other reminders that will help them stay organised. The planners are intended to support the children's independent learning skills and aid their transition to high school. Please can you check your child's planner each weekend and sign for the week. The children will be asked to hand in their signed planners every Monday morning.

PE and The Felton Mile

Mrs Burrows will be leading PE sessions for the children on Thursday afternoons this half term. Please make sure your child has clothing suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions. We will initially be continuing our Wednesday morning Felton Mile. Please can children come to school in their PE kits on Wednesday mornings, bringing school uniform to get changed into after their run.

Friday Forest Skills

Please can we ask that your child comes to school in Friday ready for Outdoor Learning. The children can wear/bring:

- Warm trousers, in line with school uniform colours (ones that can get dirty)
- Warm socks/ welly socks
- A change of footwear (walking boots or wellies)
- Layered tops – t-shirts/long sleeved tops/jumpers (we do ask children still wear their school jumper or cardigan as their top layer)
- The school will provide waterproof coats and trousers

Here's to a wonderful year for the Pioneers! If there is anything you should wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Jane Leithead, Nikki Gamston and Kerry Dixon