



# Squirrels Class Termly Newsletter

## Autumn Term 1 and 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back - we hope that you have all had a lovely summer! We are looking forward to welcoming back the Year 5s and 6s and to working with you all in the upcoming year. We have an exciting term ahead of us, with our learning based around the topic of rivers. Please do not hesitate to speak to myself, Mr Banks or Mrs Foreman at any point in the year if you have questions about an aspect of your child's learning - we are always happy to discuss this with you.

Best wishes, Miss Hurdle



### English

Our English lessons for term 1 will be focused on the text 'Floodlands' by Marcus Sedgwick. The children will be producing quality writing outcomes including a newspaper report and discussion about the impact of floods and droughts. In term 2, our learning will be based around the texts 'Beowulf' and 'Arthur and the Golden Rope'. Throughout the term, children will develop their fluency of reading and ability to comprehend a text through inference and retrieval. They will also learn a range of punctuation, grammar and spelling rules and apply these within their own work.



### Maths

We will begin the term with a focus on place value. This will involve recognising numbers up to 10 million, rounding numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, counting in powers of 10 and dealing with negative numbers. After this, we will move on to learn about the four operations including adding and subtracting numbers with more than 4 digits and multiplying and dividing using the long methods. We will also be learning about multiples, factors, prime, square and cube numbers. In term 2 of maths, we will go on to cover fractions.



### Religious Education

Our Religious Education lessons will be linked to the 'God' element of the Bible timeline. We will discuss the key question, 'What does it mean if God is loving and Holy?' In term 2, our core question will be, 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' as children learn about Incarnation.



### Computing

In Term 1 and 2, the children will be learning about computing systems and networks. Specifically, we consider the role of internet communication and search engines as well as the ability to share information online.

There will also be discussions and lessons based around the importance of staying safe online.

### Science

This term in science we will be learning about Living Things and their Habitats: life cycles and habitats. To summarise, the children will:

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

In term 2, we will move on to learn about the classification of animals, including micro-organisms. The children will be learning about a range of key scientists and will have the opportunity to develop a range of scientific skills in every lesson.



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### History

In Term 2, our history unit will look at the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and their achievements from 410 CE to 1066 CE. The first lessons explore life in England after the fall of the Roman Empire and the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons travelled to England's shores and decided to settle. This moves on to finding out how England was ruled during the settlement of the Anglo-Saxons and how they kept control of the 7 different kingdoms across the land. It finishes with a look at who the Vikings were, why they carried out raids in England and how their arrival impacted the political and social hierarchy of the time.



### PSHE

Throughout term 1 and 2, we will be focusing on the theme of health and wellbeing. The children will consider: 'How can we keep healthy as we grow?' These lessons will include discussions about physical and mental health and will encourage children to consider how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

### PE

This term, the children will be developing their cognitive skills within PE. In particular, we will be focusing on coordination and agility. The children will be taking part in activities that will progress their ball skills as well as their reactions and responses. In term 2, the children will go on to develop balancing skills through floor work.

Alongside developing skills in coordination, agility and balance, the children will take part in outdoor adventurous activities and develop creative skills in gym sessions.



### Geography

In Term 1, children will learn about the features of a river at each course and the specific features that can form. Using the River Trent as a case study, children will study the features of rivers in context. Children will then learn to conduct fieldwork at their local river by gathering, recording, analysing and presenting data. Children will name and locate their geographical region, identifying physical characteristics and key topographical features, including rivers. Children will use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using various methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies. Children will use maps and digital/computer mapping to describe the features studied.

### Music



Music this term will focus on Film Music.

#### **Children will:**

- Identify how different styles of music contribute to the feel of a film.
- Use the terms 'major' and 'minor'.
- Identify different instruments to describe how music evokes different emotions.
- Identify pitch, tempo and dynamics, and use these to explain and justify their answers.
- Give reasonable and thought-out suggestions for what different graphic scores represent.
- Use their body, voice and instruments to create sounds to represent a given theme.
- Create a musical score to represent a composition.
- Interpret their graphic score and performing their composition appropriately with their group.
- Create sounds that relate to the scene of a film.



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### Design Technology

In Term 1, the children will focus on cooking and nutrition, answering the key question: What could be healthier? In Term 2, they will move on to mechanical systems, making a pop-up book.



### Art and Design

We will begin the year by looking at chromatic artwork, considering how realistic portraits need to be. In Term 2, we will look at the art of sculpture. Children will answer the key question: how can flowers inspire artists?

### French

To begin our French learning, the children will recap their prior knowledge from LKS2. We will then look at French words, sentences and phrases for emotions and body parts.

PE lessons will take place on Wednesday and Thursday this term. However, please be aware that this can change depending on school events. Updates will be written in Squirrels weekly newsletter - please check this every week.

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading records to be handed in. The children need to read <b>five times</b> a week (for at least 20 minutes) and this needs to be accurately logged in their reading records. Please sign each entry to show that your child has read.</li><li>• Reading records handed out.</li></ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs Foreman teaches the class in the afternoon.</li></ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs Foreman teaches the class in the afternoon.</li><li>• <b>PE kits should be worn to school.</b></li><li>• English and maths homework is handed out to be handed in the following week. As stated in the homework policy, homework for Squirrels class children should take a maximum of <b>between 2 and 3 hours</b> each week. .</li></ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PE kits should be worn to school.</b></li></ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maths arithmetic test.</li></ul>