



# Squirrels Class Termly Newsletter

## Spring - Term 3 and 4



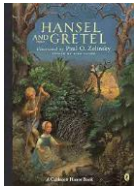
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back - we hope that you have all had a fantastic Christmas! We have an exciting term ahead of us, with our learning based around the topic of Fairy Tales. In Term 4, our topic will be focused on the Maya Civilisation. 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

In Term 3, we will be reading a range of texts including: Hansel and Gretel, Alice in Wonderland and The Wizard of Oz. The children will produce a range of writing outcomes based around these. This will include a spooky setting description, 1<sup>st</sup> person letter in the role of Alice and a 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrative, focusing on the dialogue between the Wicked Witch and Dorothy. In Term 4, we will go on to read Oh Maya Gods by Max Evans. The children will write a persuasive advert based upon the location set in the text.



### Science

This term in science we will be learning about electricity. To summarise, the children will:

- associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit
- compare and give reasons for variations in how components function,
- use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

In term 2, we will move on to learn about the properties of materials.

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.

### Maths



In Term 3, Year 5 will be learning to multiply and divide up to 4-digit numbers as well as learn to multiply unit and non-unit fractions. Year 6 will finalise their fractions learning, including multiplying and dividing decimals, before moving on to learn about ratio and algebra.

In Term 4, the children will apply their learning of place value and the four operations to a range of other material topics including perimeter and area as well as statistics.



### Religious Education

Our Religious Education lessons will be linked to the 'People of God' element of the Bible timeline. We will discuss the key question, 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?' In term 4, our core question will be, 'What did Jesus do to save humans?' as children learn about Salvation.

### Computing

In Term 3 and 4, the children will be learning how to use technology to create media. Specifically, the children will use a range of software to produce videos and create vector drawings.

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





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### History

In Term 4, we will be discussing the similarities and differences between the Maya Civilisation and England between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Century. The first lessons explore who the Maya people were, when and where in the world they lived and the reasons why they were so successful. The lessons then move on to discovering how we know about the Maya people, their beliefs and the hierarchy system that was in place in society and the important inventions that they made. The unit finishes with a comparison between the Ancient Maya Civilisation and Anglo-Saxon Britain.



### PSHE

Throughout term 3 and 4, we will be focusing on the theme of living in the wider world. The children will consider: 'How can the Media influence people?' These lessons will include discussions about internet safety and the influence of social media. Children will also discuss what influence's people decisions and how the media can have a role in this.

### PE

This term, the children will be developing their creative skills within PE. In particular, we will be focusing on static balances, stance and footwork. The children will learn to link actions and develop sequences of movements that express their own ideas while judging their performances on set criteria. They will play a variety of games including Scorpion Handball and Beanbag Raid. In addition, the children will take part in dance sessions and develop skills in the team game of Netball.



### Geography

In Term 3, we will find out what trees, plants and animals are in our local ecosystem. In this unit, children will learn about the biomes and ecosystems in the UK. They will complete a case study of the New Forest, discovering the diversity of trees, plants and animals found there. They will plan fieldwork to be conducted in a local woodland ecosystem, investigating the amount and variety of trees, plants and animals. They will then conduct this fieldwork at a local woodland ecosystem, observing, measuring and recording their findings. Children will finally analyse the data collected and present their information to an audience.

### Music



Music this term will focus on Musical Theatre.

#### **Children will:**

- Explain what musical theatre is and be able to recall at least three features.
- Categorise songs as action songs or character songs.
- Select appropriate existing music for their scene to tell the story of a journey.
- Perform in time with their groups, ensuring smooth transitions between spoken dialogue, singing and dancing.

In Term 4, the children will learn about themes and variations within music. They will be able to explain what a theme is and know that variations in music are when a main melody is changed in some way. We will learn about the composer Benjamin Britten and his music, 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'.



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### Design Technology

In Term 3, the children will apply their science learning to implement electrical systems in their creations. They will work together to create 'Doodlers'. This will involve researching existing products and applying their findings to create a unique product.

### Art and Design

*Moved from Term 1.*

We will be looking at chromatic artwork, considering how realistic portraits need to be. In Term 4, we will look at the art of sculpture. Children will answer the key question: how can flowers inspire artists?

### French

This term, the children will further develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening in French. They will do so through the context of learning about cities and countries.

PE lessons will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday 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. <b>The children need to read five times 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.</b></li><li>• Reading records handed out.</li></ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PE kits should be worn to school.</b></li><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	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maths arithmetic test.</li><li>• Maths times tables test.</li></ul>