



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Ashfield Road
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9JX
Tel: 01730 813526
e-mail: office@midhurstprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S. Clarke

11th January 2023

Dear parents/guardians,

SPRING TERM 2023

I hope you all had a good Christmas break, which I'm sure seems ages ago now! Thank you for all your good wishes, cards and gifts received by me and the Teaching Assistants at the end of term.

Our topic this term is '**Life on the Ocean Waves**', which is the same as Year 1. Here is a brief outline of our areas of study for this topic and term:

- **Science:** The use and properties of everyday materials.
- **Geography:** Naming, locating and learning about the world's oceans; simple compass directions; revising the name and location of the world's continents.
- **Design Technology:** Making ocean-themed resources using simple mechanisms like sliders and levers.
- **Art:** A range of art activities with an ocean theme. Comparing artists and their style; painting seascapes; making a clay 3D tile.
- **Religious Education:** Islam: 'How do Muslims show that Allah is compassionate and merciful?' Understanding Christianity: "Why does Easter matter to Christians?"
- **Computing:** Coding – using algorithms. Using IT to present ideas.
- **Music:** Exploring feelings through music - singing and using percussion instruments.
- **Physical Education:** Games/multiskills (sending and receiving) with Aspire coaches. Gymnastics – floor and apparatus.
- **French:** with Mrs Byers.
- **History:** Learning about Grace Darling and why she is famous; a timeline of boats/sea-faring.

In addition, maths and literacy lessons will be taught daily (linked to our topic work when appropriate). The children will have regular Reading sessions, as well as other opportunities to practise reading skills by reading to adults in school and at home. As the children's reading skills improve, we will focus more on fluency and reading speed.

Homework: Reading, Spellings and Times Tables

Reading: Whilst some of the children are reading regularly to an adult at home, many are not. It will really help your child to become more fluent if you can find time to listen to your child read as often as possible, preferably each day. Our aim is to improve reading fluency of increasingly more challenging texts. If, when you listen to your child read, they are doing lots of 'sounding out' and lack fluency, get them to read the page again fluently, without undue hesitation.

Spellings: This term, we will continue with regular weekly spelling lists for children to learn at home, followed by a spelling test. Please look out for the spelling lists in the little yellow spelling book. The 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' strategy is a useful way of learning the words:

Look at the word and how it is spelt.

Say the word and its spelling e.g. "said – S A I D"

Cover the word up.

Write it from memory.

Check if it is spelt correctly. Repeat as necessary.

Times Tables: By the end of Year 2, it is expected that children know their 2, 5 and 10x tables (and the related division facts) off by heart. The children have a chance to log in to 'Times Tables Rockstars' in school. They all have their own log in so that they can access this website at home if you wish. Another very good website we use in school is www.timestables.co.uk, so you might want to have a look at it for children to access at home to help them learn their tables. Remember to just focus on the 2s, 5s and 10s. This term we will be starting tables tests in class to aid with their fluency in this.

Class Trip

Last term I was approached by the local Rotary Club who very kindly offered to fund a trip to Pulborough Brooks. Whilst this does not directly link with our topic, it was such a great opportunity that I have booked a class visit for Monday 13th March. The trip will be fully funded by the Rotary Club, which is amazing! I will send further details nearer the time.

I look forward to speaking to you at Parents Evening later in the term. If you need to see me before then, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Aldren