

High Littleton CofE. Primary School, High Littleton, Bristol BS39 6HF

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Badger Newsletter 2 November 2020

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a lovely half term break after a term of hard work. These have been strange times for everyone, however the children have adapted to the changes in school with amazing resilience and have continued to enjoy their learning. Although it isn't as easy to catch us at the beginnings and ends of the school day, please be assured that we will follow up on any messages left via the office and get in touch to either answer or discuss any issues that you or your child has.

We have a very exciting and important topic to study in Geography this term: **Antarctica**. The study will include why Antarctica is such an important place for understanding the Earth's climate patterns, as well as discover the range of interesting animal species, from the very small to the biggest on Earth. Map study will include the understanding of latitude and longitude and how to locate countries and describe features studied.

English

We will be reading plenty of materials focusing on our topic Antarctica in class, practising our understanding of written language using comprehension, grammar and punctuation exercises.

Our new class text is Onjali Raúf's challenging and emotive novel **The Boy at the Back of the Class**.

'When a new boy is introduced at school, no one is exactly sure where he has come from; what is a "refugee kid", anyway, and how can Ahmet be helped to feel that he belongs?.... a lovely, warm-hearted first novel, a celebration of courage and friendship leavened with mischief., The Guardian

The overall aims of this learning sequence is to

- draw inferences about characters' feelings, thoughts and motives with evidence from the text.
- develop an insight and appreciation of the challenges of refugee experiences
- support the understanding and development of empathy skills.

In Big Write, we will be writing to entertain with a particular focus on Story writing.

Maths

The focus is on *addition and subtraction*. The children have made fantastic progress with their tables, and to ensure this continues, times tables tests will continue on a weekly basis. On Fridays, following on from last Term's work on properties of shape Year 3 will be drawing and making both 2D and 3D shapes using



modelling materials and recognising 3D shapes in different orientations. Year 4 children will be focusing on describing, plotting and translating (moving) positions on a 2D coordinate grid.

At home, can you be learning and practising Telling the Time on both digital and analogue. Year 4s should also be familiar with the 24 hour clock. (There are many apps available to help in this mammoth task.)

Science

This Term we are learning about our digestive system; identifying parts and their simple functions. In relation to this, we will also be looking at the types and functions of our teeth. This will also include investigating tooth decay.

Weekly Routines and Homework

- **Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables** should be practised as often as possible. We are so proud of the trophy Badger Class won last term - let's keep it up! Please feel free to contact us if there are any questions. Also, one page of the **Times Table Workbook** needs to be completed per week ready to be marked on Mondays.
- We hope that the children are enjoying the homework activities relating to the **weekly spellings** that they are learning in class and practising at home. They are given an informal 'Quick-fire Test' on Thursdays with more formal assessments taking place at the end of each Term.
- **PE:** Tag Rugby will take place on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Beale.. Please ensure that the correct kit suitable for cold weather is in school and that daps still fit! On Friday afternoons, Mrs Gibson will be doing Yoga with the class.
- Badger Class will also continue **music** lessons this term on Wednesday afternoons. They will start with learning how aerophones (vibrating air instruments) and idiophones (striking/scraping instruments.)
- They will be making their own versions using cardboard tubes. We are making instruments using cardboard or plastic tubes: ***please save any kitchen roll inner tubes or wrapping paper/cling film /aluminium tubes and send them to school. (Sorry, we can't accept toilet rolls.) Many thanks.***
- **French:** Madame Collier will be sharing her love of her language every other Wednesday afternoon.
- **Reading Check** as usual, will take place on Fridays so please continue to sign your child's reading record when you have either heard them read, shared a book or have discussed their independent reading with them.

Best wishes,

Mrs Bailey and Ms Tunstall

