

Farnsfield St. Michael's C of E Primary School

love to learn, learn to love

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term it has been so far! We are so pleased with the progress that the children are making and how enthused they are about their learning.

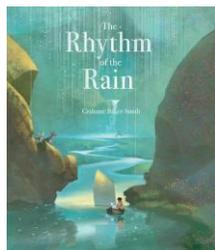
This newsletter is a catch up of what we have been doing and what is coming up in the next few weeks.

Castleton

On Monday we head off for our Castleton residential. A letter is attached with some reminders ready for next week – please read this carefully. We will upload photos to the school Twitter page to keep you updated of how we are getting on!

English

Last half term we looked at narrative writing through the story 'Hilda and the Mountain King', where the children had to re-write the comic in a more traditional story style. We also looked at explanations, applying our knowledge of the water cycle from our topic work.



At the moment we are looking at diary writing using the Literacy Shed animation 'Taking Flight'. The children will write a diary entry about their Castleton adventures.

We will then look at narratives again using the story 'Rhythm of the Rain'.



Maths

In Maths we have looked at multiplication and division. Y3 also looked at length and perimeter and Y4 looked at area.

This half term we will be looking at fractions.

Please can we remind you of the importance of regular times tables practice at home. Each child has their TT Rockstars login in their reading diary and each year group has tasks set each week.

The Y4 children did a practice Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) to help prepare them for the national MTC in June – your child's class teacher will share these scores with you at Parents' Evening.

Rapid recall and understanding of times tables is key to most of the new learning in the Y5 and 6 Maths curriculum, which is why we place so much emphasis on it. If a child does not have a good understanding of all of their times tables facts, they could struggle when they reach Y5.

If you have any questions about this please ask your child's teacher.

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What If?

Our big question for this term is 'What if water could talk?'. Last half term the children have covered the following areas:

Geography

Mountains – locating them on a map, identifying their features and explaining how they are formed
The Water Cycle – understand the key parts and explaining what happens at each stage

Music

Listening to 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg, watching a live recording and appraising using the elements of music (pitch, tempo, duration, silence, texture, timbre, structure, dynamics)

Art

Looking at the work of Hokusai and recreating 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' using sketching and watercolour.



As part of our real outcomes for this topic, some exciting dates are coming up – please see later in this newsletter!

This half term we will be learning about rivers in Geography, Handel's Water Music and using PurpleMash to do some composing in Music, and recreating river imagery using stained glass techniques.

We will also cover much of our Geography curriculum during our Castleton residential, including the impact of tourism, industries in Castleton and the surrounding area, and work on rocks (this is mainly covered in a topic that Y4 did last year and Y3 will do next year but Castleton offers us the chance to be more hands on!)

P.E/ Swimming

- Classes 5,6 and 7 to wear P.E kit on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Year 4 start swimming tomorrow afternoon – **please ensure they have their swimming kit in school.**

Homework patterns and expectations:

- Please make sure your child is continuing to access TT Rockstars each week as mentioned earlier.
- SPAG.com will continue to be set on alternate Wednesdays and is to be completed for the following week.
- Please aim to read with your child at least four times per week and record this in their diary by initialing it.
- Spellings will be sent home on a Friday and tested on the following Friday.

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Other bits...

Please can we remind you that the children aren't allowed to bring in any toys, collectibles, cards etc. from home. We also ask that children don't bring in pencil grips as we are having some difficulties with them going missing or children arguing over them.

Also, a reminder that our uniform policy states that children cannot wear jewellery to school apart from a pair of studs and a watch. Necklaces and bracelets are not allowed for health and safety reasons. Thank you.

Coming up...

As part of our topic, Year 3 and 4 are taking the lead on whole school fundraising for the 'Water4theWorld' project by the Rosie May Foundation. More information will follow for the whole school, but the following events will be led by Year 3 and 4.

- A cake stall run by Y3/4 after school on **Monday 27th March** at 3.15pm – if any parents are free to help run this we would be very grateful! We would need help from 3pm until about 3.45 – if you are able to help please let Mrs Taylor know.
- An art gallery where children will sell their work to raise money for Water4theWorld on **Thursday 30th March** – we will send out a booking form nearer the time to space out the crowds!

Thank you Miss Poppleton!

Next week is Miss Poppleton's last week in Class 7. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and what she has brought to our school this term, and we wish her all the best in her teaching career.

Thank you as always for your continued support. If you ever have any questions or concerns please see us on the door, email us or give us a call.

Best wishes,
The Year 3 and 4 Team