

AFRICA

Year 2

Spring Term

2024



Miss Green, Miss Robertson, Mrs
Dirrane, Miss Blake and Miss Chowdhury

English

During initial English lessons, the children will be exploring a persuasive advert and develop their speaking and listening skills by retelling the advert orally before acting out the text in a drama-based activity. Then, they will be writing their own persuasive adverts to perform aloud to peers. Following this, the children will be reading and exploring the text *The Leopard's Drum* and creating a story with a moral. Linking with this, they will be introduced to *Emmanuel's Dream*. The children will also be researching and creating their own information texts about Africa, with a focus on Ghana.

The daily reading session begins with 'Word of the Day' - a daily starter during which children encounter a new word. They learn and discuss its meaning, word class and spelling as well as using it in oral/written sentences. A different text is modelled and explored each week, and used for children to practise reading aloud to improve fluency as well as developing the different skills needed to read for meaning with confidence. Through directed tasks linked to the text, the children focus on applying skills related to the six domains (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising).

Daily, the children will continue to develop their handwriting skills and spelling as well as expanding their use of different punctuation and vocabulary. In addition, phase 5 phonics will be consolidated.

Maths

The children will be learning to both estimate and measure the mass of objects, in grams and kilograms, as well as focusing on comparison. They will also learn about temperature and how to read a temperature scale. The children will be developing their knowledge of pictograms and how to read and answer questions from a range of data. Additionally, they will be learning to recognise the value of coins and identify change from different amounts. Furthermore, during the latter part of the term, the children will learn about 2D and 3D shapes (considering their features) and develop their knowledge of fractions and how to find a fraction of an amount. All concepts taught this term will involve word problems and the skills needed in order to solve them. The children will continue to have daily arithmetic practice, during which the focus will be on the four operations and using different methods to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Science

Everyday Materials

The children will be learning how to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. They will investigate how some materials can be changed using different forces (bending, squashing and stretching) and how heat can change the properties of some materials - explaining which changes are irreversible. Throughout the term, the children will be planning and conducting simple investigations and continue to develop their skills regarding suggesting questions as a basis of enquiry, predicting what might happen and recording evidence in tables and charts.

Humanities

Africa, with a focus on Ghana

The children will be using computers, iPads, globes and atlases to find different locations in Africa. They will be using a range of resources to learn about different African landscapes and animals alongside life in modern towns and villages. The children will be making comparisons with their own locality and everyday experiences. They will research Ghana to find out what attracts tourists and holidaymakers to visit.

Art & Design and DT

Work will be linked to the humanities learning. Inspired by the work of African artist Edward Tingatinga, the children will experiment with pattern and colour, producing their own prints. In DT, they will design and make their own safari vehicles and test how quickly they move on various surfaces.

Religious Education

Who am I? (belonging) and Christianity (Easter)

The children will learn about the importance of belonging and different practices and ceremonies within religious faiths including: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. They will also be learning about the story of Easter and how it is celebrated.

Computing

The children will be using Microsoft PowerPoint to create a presentation based on an animal that is native to the African Savanna. They will focus on learning

different skills in order to ensure that they produce high-quality outcomes and be confident when sharing their work with peers. The children will also be learning about internet safety and how to stay safe online.

Music

The children will begin by looking at number: identifying beat and rhythm patterns in dance music; copying rhythms with movement; understanding the difference between beat and rhythm, and playing percussion instruments in time with different pieces of music. The second half of the term focuses on the music of Africa and the children will hopefully participate in an African music workshop, learning musical pieces from different parts of the continent.

PE

Our PE days are as follows:

Thursday — indoor PE

Friday — outdoor PE

Please ensure that your child has a suitable PE kit. **It is important to note that all children must wear shorts (¾ length) or jogging bottoms; tops must be plain blue or white T-shirts** (covering the shoulders due to health and safety requirements). On the first day of term, each child should bring a PE kit in a drawstring bag.

Additional Information:

Homework

In line with the school's homework policy, children will receive spellings each week. Please make sure that you read with your child as often as possible and complete their home school reading record.

We have asked the children to ensure that they are reading for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. We are happy for this to take the form of reading a book, newspaper, magazine or information from the internet. However, we would like them to read aloud with an adult at home at least once a week.

Uniform

In line with expectations, the children should wear regulation blue, yellow or white tops and appropriate shorts, trousers or skirts. Please also remember that the only jewellery allowed is small stud earrings. Children with long hair need to come with their hair tied back.

Water

It is Sherington's policy that water is drunk throughout the day to aid concentration and learning. Your child should bring a plastic bottle to school on a daily basis.

Please note that lessons start promptly at 8:55am. Children need to arrive in school at 8:50am to allow time to complete early morning work and organise resources for the first session.

For a printed version of this newsletter, please contact the school office.

