



Year 1/2 Newsletter
Spring 2 2018
Year 1 – Mars Class
Year 1/2 – Jupiter Class
Year 1/2 – Neptune Class

Ensuring



Providing



Fostering



THIS HALF TERM'S LEARNING

We hope that you all had a lovely half term break and managed to get out and enjoy a bit of the spring weather that seems to be making an appearance. Can you believe we are half way through the year already? It really doesn't seem to be true! Well this half term looks like it will be another busy one, full of exciting learning opportunities for us all.



The children really enjoyed our 'Iceberg Ahead' topic last half term and have also produced some fantastic homework, so we have decided to continue this topic for the first two weeks of this half term. Our next topic 'Understanding Others in Our Community - The Blind' will provide the children with opportunities to learn about people who may be visually impaired or blind. We have arranged two visits from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and from the Portsmouth Association for the Blind, to provide the children with first hand experiences and to give them the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of people who have visual impairments. This topic really helps children to build up an understanding of what it might be like for people in our community who may have visual impairment.



HOLY WEEK

Then for the last two weeks of this half term we will be focussing on our preparations for Holy Week. Each class will be performing a liturgy as part of our Holy Week preparations so keep an eye out for a letter informing you of the dates and times.

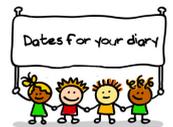
Please remember that further information, such as topic flyers, homework and curriculum maps can be found on the Year 1/2 children's webpage on the school website <http://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk>. Plus you can visit the school Facebook page or our blog to find out what is happening in school in KS1 - stmsks1.wordpress.com

Year 2 SATs information meeting for parents

We will be holding an information meeting for Year 2 parents on Thursday 15th March at 2pm and then again at 5pm. This meeting will give parents information about the arrangements for the Year 2 SATs this year in May. It will also include ways that you support your child at home in their learning, including how we teach children to solve maths calculations. We urge Year 2 parents to come along if they can.

Important dates for your diary

World Book Day - Thursday 1 March - (letter already sent out)
 Year 2 SATs info. meeting for parents - Thursday 15 March 2pm/5pm (letter to follow)
 Fundraiser for Blind charities - Tues 20 March (letter to follow)
 Parents' Evenings - Wednesday 21 or Thursday 22 March



Book Bags

Please remember to check your child's book bag regularly as we often find that some communications do not get read and, therefore, parents are not always fully aware of all events and activities that are taking place in school.



Surgery Day

Each morning, class teachers will be out on the playground to meet the children and bring them in. Please come and speak to us if you have anything you think we need to know or you have any worries. If you need to speak to us for longer than just a quick word, please make an appointment with the appropriate teacher. Our surgery day is on a Tuesday.

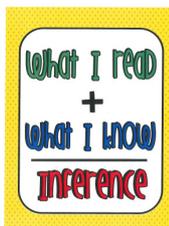
Reading

If you came along to our Titanic Day family learning event last term and then stayed for our reading workshop you would have hopefully learned a little bit about the importance of 'Inference' when reading with children and how to encourage them to be reading detectives.

Inference is the skill of combining 'what you read' and 'what you know' to find the meaning behind the words that are read. It is a key reading comprehension skill.

As promised we have put a copy of the PowerPoint that we used on the Year

1/2 page on the school website and next week we will also send home some sample activities for you to use at home too.



Inferences How do I infer?

- ✓ Think about what you already know
- ✓ Think about how the character feels
- ✓ Use CLUES in the text to make a good guess
- ✓ Think about how the character acts
- ✓ Put the pieces together
- ✓ Read between the lines

When I **INFER**... I figure out something that wasn't completely explained in the story.



Maths

Quick mental recall of different number facts and the ability to do calculations 'in your head' has been proven to greatly assist children in their mathematical development. In fact if they cannot recall simple number facts it makes maths calculations very difficult indeed!



This is why, as part of our daily Maths lesson, we have short Mathletics starters, which provide children with the chance to practise, learn and recall key facts such as doubles and halves, number pairs for all numbers up to 10/20, multiplication and related division facts, counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 3, 5s, 10s etc., from any number.

As you know **practise, practise, practise** is the key to helping your child retain these facts so we urge parents to encourage their children to use the maths quickfire packs that have been provided or alternatively there are plenty of websites and apps that can help with learning key number facts.



Here are a few useful websites

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/fruitshoot/fruitshoot_addition.htm (you can choose the other operations too)

Religious Education

We started our celebration of 'Lent' this week, with our Lenten liturgy. Lent is a special time of prayer, fasting and giving and we will be encouraging the children to think about how each of them can GIVE UP, GIVE AWAY and GIVE PRAISE (PRAY).



Family Learning

Thank you to the parents who joined us for our Titanic Day family learning event last half term. There were some brilliant outcomes and the children had a wonderful time practising their skills with you. We also hope you found the reading workshop useful too and gathered a few ideas to use at home.

Thank you to all our parents, carers and volunteers for your continued support.

