



Happy New Year! The children have come back with a focused and positive attitude and have shown great team work so far.

### **The Night Gardener**

Our first topic is based around the book 'The Night Gardener'. This links to our Science topic of 'Plants' where we will build on our knowledge from Year 2, and delve into the processes inside plants and trees that keep them alive. We will carry out investigations into the different requirements of plants and investigate how they transport water, disperse seeds and the crucial role of bees and other animals in pollination.

In English we will be reading 'The Night Gardener' and using this to answer reading VIPERS questions. We will also learn about conjunctions, complex sentences, synonyms for verbs and how to edit and improve our writing with these in mind. We will also be writing information and explanation texts in Science, using our topic vocabulary and explaining clearly. In maths, we are learning about multiplication and division.

This will include exploring adding and arrays to calculate multiplication questions, learning and using times tables facts and applying this knowledge to solving problems.

In Geography we are learning about Europe and exploring cities, natural features, human landmarks and rivers and coasts. In RE, we are learning about why people pray and comparing the different beliefs and practices around prayer in different religions. In Art, we will be exploring rainforest art and artists that studied plants and flowers, including Henri Rousseau and Frida Kahlo. In D&T, we will be designing a garden prototype and a 'secret project', with links to maths and Science, using materials and different construction methods. In Spanish we will be learning the names of fruits and how to say which fruit we like and don't like. In PSHE sessions, our topic is 'Dreams and Goals' where we will learn about how we can be motivated to pursue our goals and overcome challenges along the way.

### **PE day - Monday**

PE kits should be brought to school on Mondays. If it is cold, a school jumper and coat can be worn on top as normal. We endeavour to do PE outside mostly, but if the weather does not allow this then we will relocate to the hall and do PE in bare feet.

### **Forest school - Wednesday**

This half term we will be venturing to the forest school on Wednesday mornings. Children will need to bring appropriate forest school kit to change into – this includes old joggers/trousers (to cover legs and protect from brambles or nettles), a warm jumper or coat/waterproof, depending on the weather. If extremely cold, gloves and hats are also advised as we will be outside for the session.

### **Wider opportunities – trumpets**

We will be continuing to learn trumpets/trombones on Monday afternoons. Instruments are to be brought to school on Mondays and returned home the same day.

### **Reading VIPERS**

We are continuing to hold daily reading VIPERS sessions in class. The children have loved these group sessions so far and really enjoy the chance to practise their fluency and expression whilst talking about the story.

### **Spellings and homework**

New spellings will be given out on Fridays. These will either follow the Year 3 spelling rules (such as suffixes or homophones) or phonics sounds learnt in small group phonics sessions. The weekly spelling quiz takes place on Friday and is an opportunity to check in with how well the spellings have been embedded.

Homework tasks will vary from maths tasks and practise to Science activities or written work.

*Homework and spelling books are to be handed in by Thursday at the latest to allow time to mark and return them to children on Friday.*

### **Reading records and reading books**

Please can children bring their reading record and book to school each day – this is in case they read with an adult or if their reading group day changes due to timetable changes.

Reading records are collected when groups read with the teacher – a brief note on fluency, expression or comprehension will be noted in these. Please continue to make a note of books read at home, fluency and any questions or comments you may have.

We do remind children to change their reading book at school each week, but if they happen to forget, then do send them into class with their book in hand to change during registration.

Some children may not need to change their book as often if they are reading chapter books or supplementing reading with books from home or the library.

### **LEGO donations**

We would like to put together a Lego challenge area in our classroom for building, team skills and maths practise. If you have a small handful/bag of standard Lego bricks that you would be able to donate, then please send this to school in a bag to be handed in to Miss Wilde.

Thank you in advance!

### **Any other questions or queries**

If you have a query for the class teacher or an issue you would like to discuss, please make a note in the reading record or if it is urgent, contact Mrs Gibson-Bone the office manager (admin@escrick.n-yorks.sch.uk) who can forward this query to me.

