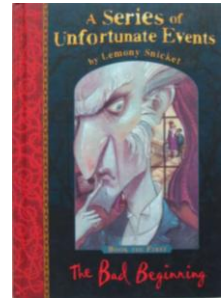


Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break¹

Our class read for this term is *A Series of Unfortunate Events – A Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket. It follows the tragic and mysterious story of the Baudelaire siblings – Violet, Klaus, and Sunny – who become orphans after a fire destroys their home. The book blends dark humor with themes of resilience, problem-solving, and the importance of family. While the story does explore difficult topics, it is written in a way that encourages empathy and critical thinking. We will enjoy this text during our daily reading for pleasure sessions, as well as during our Guided Reading sessions, where we will focus on further developing our reading skills of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising.



We will begin the term by developing our own narrative openings based on the style of Lemony Snicket, developing our own characters, settings and plot. We will continue the work that we have already done on narrative structure and grammar features, as well as considering the impact that active and passive voice can have on the reader. Following on from this, we use our learning about forces in Science to write an explanation text about how forces impact us on Earth and beyond. Within this unit, we will work on how to appropriately structure our writing using the grammar features that we have learnt so far, as well as expanding our understanding of punctuation.

The children will also continue working hard to develop their handwriting and spelling skills through focused sessions throughout the week.

In maths, we will begin the term by exploring negative numbers and solving related problems in a given context. In the following weeks, we will revisit our learning on column addition and subtraction as well as formal method for multiplying and dividing bigger numbers. Then, we will revisit our learning on fractions and decimals and begin applying our understanding of this to multiplication and division.



Our next Science topic of the year is *Animals including Humans*, during which we will learn why and how the human body changes over time. We will research our key scientist for the term, geneticist Dr Steve Jones, and will find out about his significance in his field, understanding the relationship between habitat and genetic traits. We will learn about the different stages of the human life cycle, how the human body changes during puberty and as we get older, and the differences between males and females. Whilst working scientifically, we will explore who grows the fastest, girls or boys, and why some people get grey hair as they get older.

In RE this term we will be exploring the question: How does faith and belief affect the way that Muslims lead their lives? The children will learn about Islamic beliefs around the importance of maintaining harmony and following a straight path within their own lives. We will consider the importance of family for Muslims, and how they believe this contributes to a harmonious society as well the importance of following the example set by the Prophet Muhammad.

During our History topic, we will be learning about Richard Arkwright and the influence that he had on the Industrial Revolution. We will explore the historical period that brought the UK into a period of technology and productivity and industrialism marked a shift from agricultural and rural societies. We will also learn about the wealth that this period created for society and individuals, as well as the social problems and poverty that affected many people.



In PE this term, we will be swimming on Thursday mornings at Bourne Leisure centre.



Our PSHE topic this term is 'Dreams and Goals', where we will learn about setting realistic goals, the steps needed to achieve these goals, problems that might get in the way of achieving goals and how we could try to solve them. We will also explore how we can work with others to make the world a better place.

In Computing, our topic is programming. In this unit, we will learn about variables in games. We will explore variables in existing games and how we can manipulate them to give different outcomes, as well as designing and creating our own games that follow the same principles.



Homework

The children have a Homework Menu that includes tasks that will support them with their learning that can be completed throughout the term. They will continue to have additional homework set on Reading Eggs and Mathletics on a rotational basis each week. These will be set on a Friday, and should be completed by the following Thursday. **Reading eggs will be set first on Friday 10th January.**

As we know, the time that children spend reading has a huge impact on their education. It would be amazing if children can explore books on a daily basis, when they get home from school, before they go to bed or at another time that suits you family best. This does not

have to be the same narrative text everyday; shorter stories and non-fiction texts provide excellent practise and a source of knowledge too. At this age, your children will be reading to themselves more often, but do check in and ask them questions about what they have read or found out as much as you can.

Regular practise of times tables will also have a huge impact on the progress that we make in maths this year – very quick but very often being the most effective approach at keeping tricky facts within their working memory. The children will be becoming more and more confident with their times tables by now, so focusing on the corresponding division facts will provide them with that extra challenge. The app, 'White Rose 1-Minute Maths' is really simple to use and provides quick practise of a wide range of maths skills.

PE and Outdoor Education

Swimming lessons will be on a **Thursday** this term.

Outdoor Education will be on a **Monday**, where the children need to come to school dressed appropriately, with waterproof clothing and **wellies**, just in case!

Thank you for all of your continuing support this year,

Mr Liddle