



King's Academy Oakwood

# Pine Class

# Spring 2022



Happy New Year! A new year means a new start and a fresh chance to achieve all you are capable of. We have lots of fun activities and learning planned for you this term and we look forward to continuing to watch you develop.

## English

In English this term, we will be writing newspaper reports focusing on using a variety of conjunctions, as well as quoting witnesses using both reported and direct speech. We will also be writing the resolution for a story with a focus on adding details and showing not telling a character's feelings.

After half term, we will be reading fairy tales and then writing our own version of a modern fairytale. We will also be practising our powers of persuasion by creating leaflets about our wonderful school to share with new or prospective parents and pupils.



## Reading

This term, in class we will be reading Nim's Island and the Name Jar. During guided reading, we will be studying The boy at the back of the room by Onjali Rauf. As part of this, we will be looking at specific people's stories and learning more about refugees. While reading we practise many skills including asking and answering questions but our main focus this term will be on learning how to summarise by identifying the key points in the story. You can practise this skill at home with your children by asking them to summarise their learning from the day for you.

## Maths

We will be continuing our learning on multiplication and division: Including multiplying 3 numbers together, 3 digit x 1 digit and solving worded and reasoning problems. **We will continue to learn our times tables but it is vital that children continue to practise these at home using TT Rockstars in order to be ready for our times table test in June.** After multiplication and division, we move onto learning about area; starting with regular shapes and then moving onto irregular shapes.

After half term, we move on to learning about fractions. This learning will include adding and subtracting fractions, fractions of whole numbers and then gaining a concrete understanding of 10ths and 100ths to enable us to move on to learning all about decimal fractions.

## Science

In Science this term, our topic is Animals Including Humans. Our lessons will include learning about teeth: the different types of teeth, their different functions and how to look after them. We will even be using egg shells (because they contain calcium like our teeth) to test the effect different liquids have on our teeth! We will also be learning about the journey our food takes as it moves through the digestive system and creating an explanation text about the process.

After half term, our topic will be Sounds. We will be learning about different sound sources and how they vibrate to make sounds. Our lessons will include learning about pitch, volume

and how sound travels to reach our ears. We will also investigate how sound travels through a string telephone and test a range of materials to see which is the best one for absorbing sound.

## **Humanities**



This term, our Geography topic is Exploring Eastern Europe. We will be developing our mapwork skills and learning about Eastern European countries. We will use our ICT skills to research physical features (such as climate) and human geography (such as population and culture). We will also be learning about the Chernobyl disaster and considering the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power.

After the February half term, our History topic will be Riotous Royalty - William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria. We will be learning about the Magna Carta and why it was such an important document. We will develop our chronological understanding of the Royal Family and which monarch reigned in relation to another. Our lessons will also help us understand how some monarchs fought to become powerful, whilst others used dynasties to secure their position as head of the country. We will even be thinking about what decisions we might make if we were made King or Queen for the day!

## **RE**

This half term, we will be learning about Buddha's Teachings (Buddhism) and how people could solve some of the problems in the world. We will be reading Buddha's stories and considering our key question: Is it possible for everyone to be happy?.

After February half term, we will be learning about Easter and trying to understand how Christians believe God can help them show forgiveness. We will also be thinking about what sort of help we might need to show forgiveness to others.

## **Home Learning**

There are no changes to our home learning offer. Home learning continues to consist of Reading, Times Tables, Spelling and an additional weekly task. Home learning tasks will usually be set on Google Classroom. Please ensure that children are completing all these tasks as it has a hugely positive impact on their learning.

### **Reading at Home**

Children will continue to bring home a book from the Reading Scheme (if appropriate) or a book from the Year 4 suggested reading list as well as a weekly library book.

We expect children to be reading aloud at home on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to fill in their reading record every time they finish a book. As well as helping your child with fluency, expression and word reading, it is important to discuss the text with your child to check their comprehension and understanding of the text. To support their learning at school, you could also ask them to summarise what they have read.

### **Times Tables**

In year 4, all children have to do a national times table test. This is because the speed recall of multiplication and division facts is of great value to many areas of maths. Therefore, we expect the children to complete daily times tables practice. Your child has a login for TimesTables Rockstars. 10 minutes of daily practice on this will help to improve the speed and accuracy of their recall. Super Movers on BBC is also a good way to practise.

## **Spelling**

Please ensure children are learning their spelling words each week which can be found on Google Classroom as well as in their Homework books.

*New Spellings set on Friday*

*Spelling homework due by Wednesday*

*Spelling Tests on Thursday*

## **English and Maths homework**

Children will have either a piece of english or maths homework set on a weekly basis. This homework will be set via Google Classroom.

*New homework set on Friday*

*Homework due in by Wednesday*

Best Wishes,

Mrs Fitzgibbon and Mrs Grindley