



Spring Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a very happy 2023. I am very excited to be back at school and looking forward to another fantastic term with the children.

English

To start the term, we are reading *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. It is a charming book which follows the adventures of a little boy who falls down a hole and wakes up in the Stone Age. Last term, the children studied the Stone Age in history and this unit will allow the children to retrieve their knowledge and deepen their understanding of the period. The children will be also be developing their fictional writing skills. They will be writing a character description and setting description, leading up to writing their own story where they find themselves travelling back in time to the Stone Age.

Maths

This term, the maths curriculum will cover multiplication and division. We will start by learning the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and then move onto formal multiplication. We are practising these times tables at school and I would encourage the children to practise at home using Times Tables Rock Stars. Times tables are really important in developing the children's mathematical fluency and there is a national times tables assessment in Year 4.

Science

This term, we will be studying the power of forces. The children will explore how forces can make objects move and change direction and compare how things move on different surfaces. They will learn about magnetism; identifying magnetic and non-magnetic materials and investigating some of the properties of magnets.

Geography

This term, we are learning about our world. The children will begin to understand the earth better as a sphere, learning to rotate it mentally in 3D. They will explore its representations in 2D maps and learn about the imaginary lines used to pinpoint global locations (equator, latitude, longitude).

Reminders

Excitingly, the children will attend Forest School this term. This will involve them experiencing learning outdoors and learning about our wonderful local environment which we are so lucky to have at Firbeck. Please bring appropriate outdoor wear on Wednesdays. This could include long trousers and coats as well as appropriate outdoor shoes. **PE will be on Tuesday and Friday**, please ensure that the children have their PE kits on these days. We would still really like the children to read every day (either independently or to an adult). We will be monitoring reading diaries and rewarding the children with prizes. We would like reading books and reading diaries to be in school every day so that adults in school can also hear them read. The children will continue to have weekly spellings, please ensure that the children practise their spellings for at least 5 minutes every night. Accurate spelling is vital for the children to become confident and fluent writers.

If you have any questions at all do not hesitate to email me. My email is odemalplaquet@firbeck.org.uk. You can also send me a message on Class Dojo.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Malplaquet