

## Redwood Class 2021-22

### Start of the Year Newsletter (Term 1)

Class Teacher: Miss Dyer

Class TA: Mrs Allen (mornings)

PPA cover: Mrs Chapman (Friday Afternoons)

It has been so wonderful to be welcomed into such a fantastic school. I am very much looking forward to getting to know each and every one of the children and to take them on a learning journey which will help them flourish and to reach the best of their potential.

Miss Dyer

### **What are we learning this term?**

#### English

In English this term, we are focusing our writing around 'The Empire Windrush', a huge cruise ship which brought one of the first large groups of post-war West Indian immigrants to the United Kingdom in 1948.

We will be aiming to write a diary entry from the point of view of a person who chose to migrate from Jamaica to London due to better job opportunities and financial stability.

In order to write this piece effectively, we will be focusing on historical context, the use of emotive vocabulary including strong adjectives, key diary features and the specific structure of a diary entry.

This topic is extremely interesting and the children are keen to develop their knowledge of this topic!

We have already started to produce some fantastic work which will aid us when we come to write our final pieces.

#### Maths

In Maths this term, our focus will be on Place Value and the Four Operations. Some of the lessons within these unit blocks are revision of previous learning to ensure we have consolidated our knowledge in order to apply this to new skills.

By the end of this term, we will have knowledge of numbers to ten thousand, one hundred thousand, one million and ten million. We are using place value columns and counters to support us with this.

The Four Operations will consist of adding and subtracting with four digit numbers using the column method, dividing using the long division method and multiplying four and two digits together.

Redwood have already demonstrated a very high standard of mathematical knowledge, so there will be a variety of challenges set.

#### Topics this term

##### History

This term, we are focusing on Ancient Greece. We will be looking at key vocabulary, how and why the Ancient Greek Empire grew, chronology of key events, the political system that was in place, the religion at the time and also the artwork that could be found. The children have taken a liking to this topic and are very excited to retain more information and knowledge.

##### Science

We will be looking at 'forces' this term. We will be carrying out a variety of engaging investigations to find out: how forces act upon different objects, including gravity, air and water resistance. We will also be studying the theory of gravity and will research famous scientists and their findings.

##### PSHE

This term, we will be looking at 'VIPS' (very important person) which will focus on relationships. Children will identify who their VIPs are within their families and friendship groups and how important kindness and respect are within these relationships. The unit addresses conflicts and resolutions in relationships. The children will also look at the secrets and dares, as well as healthy and unhealthy relationships.

## Healthy Eating and Dental Care: Healthy Snacks & Water Bottles

Please help us to promote healthy happy smiles by keeping sugar consumption to meal times only. For more information, please see Mrs Chapman's most recent newsletter.

- Pack squash and fruit drinks in lunch boxes. These should not be brought into class.
- Provide a named bottle full of **water** for use at break and during the day (or allow school to provide fresh water for your child)
- Pupils in Redwood should bring healthy snacks only, for example, fruit, vegetables, crackers, breadsticks, cheese, plain yoghurt.

## PE Information

- Pupils are to come in school in PE kit on PE days;
- PE kit consists of a house colour school polo shirt, black bottoms, trainers and a black jacket/hoodie;
- PE will be **Friday's** with coaches from Wiltshire Cricket and also on **Wednesday's** in Redwood Class;
- Earrings must either be removed, or they must be taped over for safety on PE days.

## Blue Folders

Hopefully, pupils will have brought home a blue folder in their book bag. These blue folders contain *Knowledge Organisers*, which contain all of the most important knowledge pupils are learning in school. These are a helpful way to know what your child is learning about in school. You may use them to talk about a topic at home with children or they could read them as part of their reading homework. Blue folders are updated regularly with new learning, so please keep them in book bags.

## Homework

### Reading

- Children may read to an adult, or an adult may ask them about what they have read for their homework. Please sign reading records when doing so. We check reading records for at least three adult signatures on **Fridays**.
- Reading records should go home and be in school each day.

### Spellings (Online via EdShed's **Spelling Shed**)

- We have a weekly spelling focus set on a Friday. Spellings will be tested on **Fridays**.
- Spellings should be practised at home by completing the weekly activities set on Spelling Shed. Extra 'paper practise' is also beneficial (however we do not need to see evidence of this).
- EdShed log in details are the same as Maths Shed and are stuck in children's reading records.
- Please see the ParentMail sent out earlier today for more information about Spelling Shed. Children will be shown how to use this in school. Please note, that there is a Spelling Shed app but this is not required.
- Log in details for Spelling Shed are *the same as Maths Shed* – find in the front of reading records.

### Maths (Online via EdShed's **Maths Shed**)

- We will use Maths Shed for maths homework from this year.
- Up to two homework tasks are set on **Fridays** and due in by the following **Friday**.
- Mathletics will be used for in-school purposes this year (passwords for this have also been changed).

### Times Tables

- We test children's knowledge with our Space Mission Maths scheme regularly. It is part of children's homework to be practising times tables.
- Maths Shed and [timestables.me.uk](http://timestables.me.uk) are great ways of practising online.