
SHIPBOURNE SCHOOL

Mrs K Dodd
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Tuesday 19th December 2017

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful term we have had. It has been filled with singing, acting, dancing, creativity, lots of learning and above all, happy smiley, if perhaps a little tired, faces. We would like to thank you all for the kind and generous gifts and Christmas cards that have been arriving this week; it is a lovely way to finish the term.

We are now trying to think past Christmas and have been busy planning for the new term. When we return in January, we are focusing on The Great Fire of London in History. We will be visited by Oliver Naylor from Steps in Time to bring this topic to life (but without the fire!). A letter will follow with more details. The next Geography topic will be The Rainforests. In science we will learn more about healthy eating and will be making some healthy food during our next DT day. We will also study properties of Light.

In English, we will be using the fiction books to inspire both creative and non-fiction writing. We are looking forward to seeing further development in children's writing skills. In maths, we will revisit problem solving, involving the four operations to further consolidate our written methods. In the second half of the term, we will be working with graphs, time problems, and weighing and capacity. It would be very beneficial if children could continue to develop mental recall of times tables facts and learn to tell time practically.

During Art sessions we will be looking at a range of artists and studying their work. We will be exploring the work of Andy Warhol on January 4th. Our composer will be Evelyn Glennie, we will be exploring Glennie's work during assemblies. In class we will use instruments to accompany specific poems and stories to create atmosphere.

Our focus for PE sessions will be gymnastics and dance. Our dance sessions will be inspired by our Geography topic of the Rainforest. Swimming will start on January 11th and the last session will be March 22nd. Homework this term will continue in the same routine for spellings, Times tables and maths. It is also very important that children read as often as possible, discussing their books with an adult. A record of any reading should be made in the reading record books. Please encourage the children to read during the holidays.

As your child returns to school, please could you make a quick check that pencil cases, school uniform and PE kits are fully resourced. The children will be doing gymnastics and dance and may wear leotards or shorts and a t-shirt, but winter kit must also be provided. All children should have one named pencil case stocked with pencils, eraser, ruler, sharpener, glue stick and colouring

pencils (all named please). Felt-tipped pens and fine-liners are optional but gel pens are not required and are best left at home. Children's uniform should also be clearly labelled, so that any lost items can be returned quickly. Please could you also ensure that PE kits, including a warm jumper and trainers, are available in school every day and, once again, that they are clearly labelled. If girls wear tights, spare socks are also required for all PE lessons, please. Swimming bags are required for lessons on Thursdays. Finally, all children will need a named water bottle with a sports cap so that they can drink in class whenever they wish to. Your co-operation in helping your child to be fully resourced is really appreciated and helps the school day to run smoothly.

On either Tuesday 27th March or Wednesday 28th March, you will have the opportunity to visit us and discuss your child's progress and targets. However, should you have any concerns prior to this then please pop in after school or make an appointment via Mrs Headon in the office.

Have a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th January.

Mrs Bass and Mrs Pattanshetti