

Year 4 Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Spring Term 1

Wednesday 3th January 2024
to
Friday 9th February 2024

Theme – 'I Can Hear You!'

Welcome back! We hope you and your children have had a lovely time over the Christmas holidays and are ready for the exciting term ahead. Our theme for this half term is called 'I can hear you.' This science-based theme provides opportunities to explore sound and hearing parts of the ear and their functions.

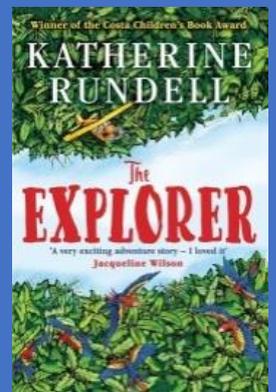
To continue with promoting the love of reading throughout our school we will again be visiting Droylsden library. This is a great opportunity for your child to learn about the fantastic free resources available to them and to read and enjoy a wide range of books. The library is also a great place to go to study or do homework, to use a computer or attend free activities during school holidays.

Please continue to read to your child and encourage them to read to you. Your child will receive a reading book and can change it as soon as they have read it. Please support your child to record reading sessions in their reading diary. It is important that your child regularly reads their reading book.

Reading for pleasure can benefit your child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. We can also learn new words and phrases (that we can use in our own writing), experience a range of emotions, and acquire new skills and knowledge.

What will we read this half term?

This term we will be reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. This is an award winning adventure story set in the Amazon. It follows the story of Fred, whose plane accidentally crashes into the rainforest canopy. The Explorer is an exciting and gripping adventure that sees four children learning to survive as they journey through unfamiliar and challenging circumstances. This book transports you to a richly drawn land and you will find yourself right there with the children as they follow a map to a lost city, eating tarantulas and swimming with river dolphins. The Explorer teaches children not only about the stunning landscapes of the Amazon Rainforest but also has lessons in friendship, resilience and much more.



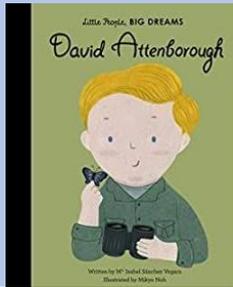
What will we be learning this half term?

Please note that all the Curriculum Overviews for each subject can be found on the school website. These contain detailed outlines of the coverage for learning. Please take time to read them.

Our School Values

Achieve Care Value Listen Help

This term, we will be looking at our 'care' school value. We will meet David Attenborough, the inspiring broadcaster and conservationist.



Little David grew up in Leicester on the campus of a university, where his father was a professor. As a child, he spent hours in the science library, collating his own specimens and creating a mini animal museum. When he was old enough to go to university, he studied science and zoology – but what he wanted most of all was to be close to the animals he was studying. So, he started working in television, visiting animals in their natural habitats, and telling the world the untold stories of these animals.

English



We will read 'Everything Dogs' by Becky Baines to support us with writing a non-chronological report about how to care and look after a dog. We will choose a breed of dog, then using our computer skills we will research the breed and write notes ready for writing our reports. Also, to support us with our writing, Melanie and her furry friend Bob, from the Dogs Trust, will be visiting our school so we can learn about how they care for rescue dogs and find forever loving homes.



Maths

Our focus this term will be multiplication and division. We will work on the following:

- Factor pairs
- Using factor pairs
- Multiplying by 10 /100
- Divide by 10 /100
- Related facts – multiplication and division
- Informal written methods for multiplication
- Multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Multiply a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Divide a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Divide a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Corresponding problems
- Efficient multiplication

It is now compulsory that all children in Year 4 take part in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the Summer term. For more information about this please visit:

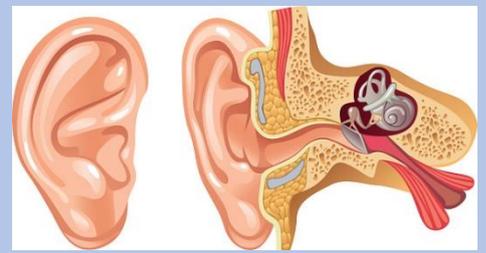
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

In preparation for the MTC, this year we will be doing lots of times tables practise and we will be using the website called TT Rock Stars. We strongly advise that you allow your child to use this website as much as possible at home, as the more practise they get, the more confident and quicker they will become at their times tables.

Please encourage and support your child to practise their weekly times tables. It is very important that your child learns their times tables up to x12 (and their associated division facts) as it supports their mathematical learning and understanding. When children know their times tables and have quick recall, mental arithmetic becomes easier. Practising times tables also helps children to understand number and number relationships and to see patterns in numbers. These skills will help them to master key concepts and move quickly through more complex maths problems with confidence.

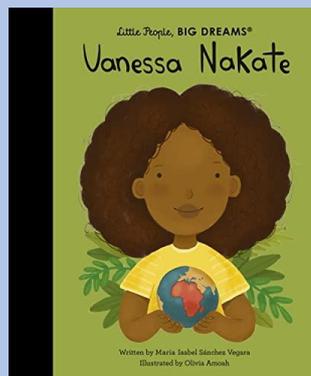
Science

We will learn about how vibrations cause sounds and how sounds travel, as well as how sounds can change pitch and loudness. We will investigate how we hear things and how sound travels through the air and solids to our ears. We will then learn about the different parts of the ear and their functions in order for us to hear.



Research

We will be travelling to South America to learn about the physical and human features that make up this continent. We will be using globes, atlases and maps to locate South America and its countries. We will be locating the Amazon and understanding its significance. We will learn about the importance of the Amazon Basin and the threats faced by the Rainforest. We will compare the similarities and differences between the Amazon Basin, south east Brazil and Audenshaw.



We will also meet Vanessa Nakate, the Ugandan climate-justice activist who took a stand to campaign to save the Congolian Rainforests. Where she was soon invited to take her campaign around the world. Today, she continues to be a leader in the climate-change movement and a voice of her generation.

Computing

With Mr Goodier, we will be exploring the world of coding and repetition in shapes using a BBC microbit. We will create programs by planning, modifying and testing commands using the programming language MakeCode.



Music

This term, our learning is focused around the song Stop! By Joanna Mangona. A rap/song about bullying. To begin with, we will clap back rhythms we can hear, copy and sing back, copy back with instruments (with and without notation). In small groups, we will use the song as inspiration to compose and perform our own songs about bullying.



PE

The focus of our learning this term will be Dance: Cats

We will explore movement through improvisation, introducing unison and matching. We will learn how to move like dancers where we interpret the music, perform with good timing and musicality, show expression and creativity and be able to choreograph. Sustaining characters to add drama and emotion to the dance.



Foreign Languages

This term, we will be learning about numbers upto 31, days of the week, months of the year and important days in the calendar. We will learn how to say the date and our birthday in French and write a birthday invitation. We will play typical French party games and sing 'Joyeux Anniversaire' (Happy Birthday!) We will then complete a class survey to find which month has the most/least birthdays in. We will also look at a selection of French festivals and research the date they take place.



RE

We will be learning about what we can learn from religion about right and wrong. We will look at why it is important to have rules and what would happen if we didn't have them. We will discuss ideas about how people decide what is right and what is wrong and how religion can affect the way a person lives. We will learn about why God gave Moses ten important laws telling people how to live. We will think about what temptation is and how it can affect people's behaviour. We will make links between stories about temptation and how people can be tempted now. We will describe ways in which followers of Judaism and Christianity might use the Ten Commandments to help them decide right and wrong.



Art

We will investigate different ways of applying paint. We will look at how adding black and white paint can change the shade and tint of a colour. We will then use this knowledge, to paint a picture giving it a three - dimensional effect.



PSHE



The unit for this term is: 'Dreams and Goals.' We will fit together the six pieces of learning about my dreams and goals to create 'Our Garden of Dreams and Goals.'

We will look at our dreams and goals and understand that they might not always come true and that this can hurt. We will reflect on happy and positive experiences that can help us counteract disappointment, which will help us to make a new plan and set new dreams and goals. We will then reflect and understand what is needed to successfully achieve.

We are looking forward to the exciting term ahead. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Each Friday, your child will receive a set of spellings and a times table to learn for the next Friday where they will be assessed. Please encourage and support your child to regularly practise their spellings and times tables.

Please make sure your child has their P.E. kit in school at all times - plain black shorts (no names or labels) and plain white t-shirt (no names and labels).

Thank you for your continued support,
Kind regards,

Year 4 Team