

Dear parents and carers of Honeysuckles class,

I hope you have all had a lovely Easter break, and that the children are feeling rested and ready for a busy summer term! I enjoyed our 4 weeks back after lockdown. It was so good to get back together. We had lots of fun with our class book *Weslandia* and the children impressed me with their writing.

We also managed to learn more in our *Marvellous Mountains, Winding Rivers* topic.



This term's topic

In the first part of the Summer term our Topic is *Sow, Grow and Farm*.

This is a Geography based topic. We will learn about allotments in the UK and how the government encouraged people to have these in order to support food rationing during the Second World War.

We will have the opportunity to learn about farming in the UK and the techniques used in modern farming, including the challenges that farmers face. We will explore the benefits of eating seasonally and about the pros and cons of importing food. We will also learn about world farming and how the different climate zones affect where different foods can be grown

We will learn about food webs and animal life cycles, including how living things are dependent on one another within a habitat. We will investigate the different ways that plants reproduce and will dissect flowering plants to identify the different structures.

We will also be dipping into the classic novel *"The Secret Garden"* in class and watching the film as part of our WOW day after some fun planting in school and learning all about allotments.

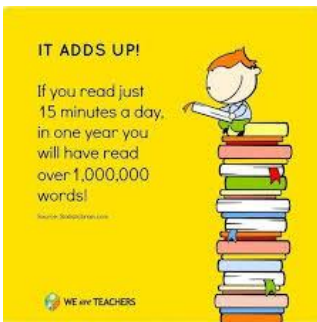
In English, we will be studying non chronological reports, diary entries and persuasive texts and we will continue to work on our SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) skills and how to apply these effectively to our writing. We will also continue to develop our inference and deduction skills through our daily reading lessons.

In maths, we will be recapping areas identified in the Spring term that the children need to work on following ongoing assessment of their ability, and we will continue to work hard on developing our reasoning and problem solving skills. We will also continue to learn about decimals and measurement.

PE will continue to be on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and the children will need to come in to school dressed in their PE kit on these days. Please make sure the PE kit is appropriate and suitable for the weather. Jogging bottoms or shorts, t-shirts and hoodies with trainers or pumps (no jeans or cropped tops please).

Homework will continue to be set every Friday, and will be uploaded to Google Classroom to be done in their homework book. We will go through the previous week's homework on a Friday so children can bring their books in on this day please (although the answers are also uploaded to Google Classroom, so you are free to go through it with them if you wish to). The children can then stick any paper copies in their homework books for the following week that they need.

Honeysuckles will continue to be taught by Mr Ford on Tuesday afternoons and Mrs Southworth on Wednesday afternoons.



Books for Topics: 50 Recommended Reads

Many of the children have borrowed books from our brand new reading treasure chest, which contains the 50 recommended reads for year 4 or 5 pupils, from Books for Topics. As mentioned in the letter that was uploaded to the school website about this challenge, the idea is that children challenge themselves to read all of these books, or as many as they can, during their time in the year group. As

this challenge was only recently launched, this year it is there to provide the children with a range of high quality texts to read, providing them with an appropriate level of challenge for their age, for the remainder of the school year. I hope that they are enjoying the books, and that they are helping children to 'get back in to reading' after their time at home, when a variety of books may not have been as freely available to them.

Regular reading is so important for all of the children, and really does make a difference in their ability to read and comprehend across the curriculum, all the way through their school life! Please encourage your children to read three plus times a week at home, as per homework expectations. Fluency and comprehension are areas of focus for us, following our time out of school, so the more practice they can do at home, the better! Thank you for your support.

Sow, Grow and Farm - home learning ideas

To accompany our Sow, Grow and Farm topic, there is a 'home learning ideas' sheet which contains suggested activities for the children to do at home, to enrich their learning. Please encourage your child/children to have a go at these, if they wish to. I would love to see what they do; they are welcome to bring anything they do at home in to school to share with the class!

TT Rockstars

Please remember that your child/children can use TT Rockstars to support their learning, while at home. I.

If you need me to remind you of their login details, or if there is anything else you need, please email me on the class email address below:

honeysuckles@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Collins