



2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear parents and carers of Peonies class,

I hope that you have all had a lovely half term week, despite the cases of Covid that we have seen in our class! Last term was a huge success, I really enjoyed getting to know Peonies class and we had a great term together. I hope this term will be just as enjoyable!

### English and maths

This term our English lessons will be based around our topic 'Britain at War'. We will be studying historical narrative and nonets, focusing on powerful imagery and figurative language and we will be looking at persuasive language used in war time posters. We will also continue to develop our knowledge of SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar rules) and will apply this to our writing. In maths, we will finish our unit of work about number, focusing on factors, multiples and prime numbers and order of operations (BIDMAS). We will then go on to learn about fractions, including use of the 4 operations with fractions. Children will continue to be encouraged to log on to TT Rockstars to help them to learn their times tables or to keep working on their speed of recall of the multiplication facts. Please encourage your children to do this, as a secure knowledge of the tables helps the children in all areas of maths. Thank you for your support!



### Topic

Our new topic is called 'Britain at War' and it teaches children about the causes, events and consequences of the First and Second World Wars, the influence of new inventions on warfare, how life in Great Britain was affected and the legacy of the wars in the post-war period. I am looking forward to our wow day to launch the topic on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November! Accompanying this newsletter is a knowledge organiser about the topic, which you can read with your child, to find out what we are going to be learning about over the course of the term. Also accompanying the newsletter is a home learning guide, which contains some suggested activities that your child can do at home, as well as recommended reading around this topic. Any work done can be returned to school on the last Monday of term so that we can look at it over the last couple of days of term.



### Other subjects

Peonies will continue to be taught by Mr Doyle on Monday and Thursday afternoons, which are my two afternoons out of class. He will be teaching them PE, RE and PSHE. I know that the children love their time with him! For PSHE, we will be following Derbyshire's recommended scheme - PSHE Matters. Throughout the year, we will be looking at friendships, money, relationships, keeping mentally and physically healthy as well as taking responsibility and exploring emotions. In our RE lessons, we will be following the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and also the diocese-recommended scheme 'Understanding Christianity'. We will also be exploring special days, festivals and significant people during our lessons and daily collective worship in class. We will also continue to learn German.

## PE

As mentioned above, your child will need to come in to school in their PE kit on Monday and Thursday each week. Please could their kit be in line with our uniform policy, which is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, plain black shorts, plain black jogging bottoms and trainers. It may be a good idea for anyone with pierced ears to leave their earrings out on PE days to save them having to take them out, or if your child struggles to remove their earrings, they can tape them over (tape will not be provided by school).



## Homework

Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be due in on the following Thursday, when children will bring their homework books in to school for their work to be marked. Children will be provided with maths homework, spelling homework and they will also be expected to read at least five times a week, and for their reading to be recorded in their reading record. Homework will sometimes be set on SATs Companion, which is an online programme which offers maths and English support for Y6 children (your child's login details are in their homework book). We will increase our usage of this over the year as we head closer to the SATs window (May), to provide the children with support with their learning.

## Reading

Your child will continue to be provided with a reading book in line with their reading age. In class, children will have access to books off our reading shelves as well as library books (which are brought in to the classroom for children to access) and we will also have our 50 Reads Challenge books in our reading treasure chest. These books are specific to Y6, and the children are encouraged to read as many, ideally all, of the books during their time in Y6. It is essential that those children who are free readers are reading books that are challenging enough for their age, and that they are accessing a wide range of genres and authors, and the 50 Reads Challenge is perfect for this! It is lovely to see how much the children are enjoying reading these books. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to read!



I hope that you have found this information useful, and I look forward to getting to know you and to meeting you all at parents' evening. If you ever need to contact me, please don't hesitate, you can phone school or can email me directly on [peonies@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:peonies@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Miss Warburton