

Mars Class Newsletter September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of another school year! I hope you all had a lovely summer break and managed to enjoy some sunshine.

Apologies as I feel this will be a rather long newsletter, but there's lots of information to tell/remind you of.

Welcome to Mars Class. There are a lot of staff in Mars Class:

Miss Steel- Class Teacher

Mrs Cobb- Classroom Teaching Assistant

Mrs Sampson- Classroom Teaching Assistant (Tuesday and Friday mornings)

Miss Hambly - PPA Cover (Tuesday afternoons 1-2pm)

Mrs Pearce- HLTA (Friday afternoons).

Term 1 Topic:

This term, our whole school learning focus is 'Britain is Great' and has a History focus. Mars Class' learning question is "What if I went to Pudding Lane?" In our history lessons, we will be learning about the Great fire of London; what started the fire, why it spread so quickly, how it was put out and how London changed after the fire.

In English, our first unit is narrative and we will be looking at the story 'The Queen's Hat' by Steve Antony, followed by a poetry unit based on the poem 'Firework Night' by Andrew Collett. We will also begin our Poetry Curriculum by looking at the poems 'The Engine Driver' by Clive Sansom and 'Now I am 6' by A.A Milne.

In Maths, our first unit is 'Statistics'. We will recap number by counting lots of objects and sorting these objects by category or quantity, asking and answering simple questions and representing categories using pictograms, tally charts, block charts and tables. Following this, we will be moving onto Number and Place Value.

Our Science topic this term is 'Seasonal Changes' as we move from Summer into Autumn. This will be a good opportunity to consolidate our statistics learning as we will be collecting and recording lots of data, such as the number of rainy days and how much rain fall there is over a period of time.

In Art, we will be looking at the work of James Rizzi and Hunterwasser and completing drawings of buildings in a 'pop art' style, using charcoals, pastels, chalks, pencils and paint.

News clues time is a time for the children to share a piece of news or talk about something that they have done at home. We will be asking them to think of three clues that they can give to the rest of the class to spark a discussion about what they are going to share. This term will be the Year 2s so the Year 1 children can get familiar with News Clues, please see the dates below.

Wednesday 13 th September	Bobby Spencer Freya
Wednesday 20 th September	Dexter Isla Quentin
Wednesday 27 th September	Jayden Aria
Wednesday 4 th October	Harry Taylor
Wednesday 11 th October	Cody Frankie
Wednesday 18 th October	Olivia Ezra

PE Days

This year our PE days will be on **Mondays and Tuesdays**. Miss Steel will teach PE on Mondays and Mr Lumsden will teach PE on Tuesdays. Please send your child to school in their PE uniform on these days. Children should wear the green school sports top with the optional hoody, black/dark grey plain leggings/joggers/shorts and sensible trainers. **Remember to remove or tape any earrings please.**

Outdoor clothing

We are very lucky to have such a big outdoor area, which we will be using for our learning as much as possible, especially as we support the transition from EYFS to Year 1. Please can you send in a pair of clearly named wellies in a plastic bag to be kept in school. Your child also needs a waterproof coat with a hood in school **every day**.

Morning Snacks and Water Bottles

The school is continuing to provide toast. Toast must be paid, for the term, via Arbor. There will be fruit available to children not having toast. Children also need to bring a water bottle to school. Please make sure the bottle is named and has a sports top.

Class Cooking

Friday afternoon food technology lessons with Mr Stillie will recommence from September. Throughout the school year, all children will have the opportunity to cook seasonal dishes. Please can a £2 donation for the year be handed to me so that children can join in these cooking sessions when it is our class' turn.

Reading Books

Reading books and reading records should be brought to school **DAILY** in a book bag. A member of the class team will read with each child weekly, so it is really important to have a book/diary in school. Children need to place their book in the box at the front of the classroom when it needs to be changed. A reminder that **1 HOME READ and 1 SCHOOL READ** per day can go towards children's reading awards. This must be from a children's school

reading book, any reading for pleasure your child does will not count towards their reading awards. If any parents would like to become a reading volunteer, please contact me via Dojo.

Homework

In Mars class we expect all the children to be doing learning at home each day. This comprises of daily reading and use of the comprehension bookmarks to select a question from to ask your child. TT Rockstars (Y2) / Numbots (Y1) should also be used to practise maths daily. Completing homework is monitored, children who complete their homework will be awarded a Dojo at the end of the week. A reminder that the child with the most Dojo points will receive a prize from the prize box on a Friday afternoon.

Dojo's

We are continuing to use our system of Dojos with the children alongside the Dojo message feature. You should have all received an invite to join the Class Dojo page, please could you accept this invitation ASAP. Please note that Mrs Pearce is linked to our class Dojo. This means that you are able to message her if it is about a Friday afternoon.

Any attendance messages should continue to be sent to the school office at the start of the day in the usual way.

Please be assured there will be lots of support and transition activities for both the Year 1s as they adjust to working on the National Curriculum, and for the Year 2s as their learning becomes slightly more 'formalised'. I am really looking forward to starting a new term and school year, and watching the children begin the next part of their learning journey.

Kind Regards

Miss Steel and the Mars Class Team.