

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

2021 may have started out quite a strange New Year but I am hopeful that before long this country will be in a happier and healthier place, so I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Our Curriculum in Torridge Class:

Our curriculum in Torridge class has only had a slight tweaking from what I was planning before the lockdown.

In **English** this half term we will be focusing on non-fiction writing and learning to write detailed and precise instructions. We will also learn the skills to write effective persuasive texts. While we are writing non-fiction, we will base our themes around the film How to Train Your Dragon. These lessons will be supplied by Oak National and myself. Our grammar focus this term will be verbs and adverbs. Next half term we will be returning to fiction and focus on dialogue. We will be linking our literacy to the book Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson. This is a story based on the American slave trade. We will then write a biography of Harriet Tubman. Children are being encouraged to read for pleasure each day. Guided reading will be through Oak National and links will be sent weekly to the children. Spellings will be taught through links with teachers.

In **Maths** the children will be developing their understanding of multiplication, division and fractions. Lessons will be a combination of my teaching, White Rose PowerPoints and worksheets. Children will also be using their maths text books which they have been provided with.

In **Science** this term our lessons will be arranged by Mrs Rogers and children will be learning how animals and plants have adapted to their environments. These lessons will be taught through Oak National. The second half of term we will learn about electrical circuits.

During our **personal, social and emotional** lessons and circle times we will be looking after our wellbeing, making choices and money management. These lessons will be blocked and may all occur in the second half of term.

In **MFL** children will continue to perfect their ability to read and speak in Italian. Mrs Rogers will deliver lessons using our Languagenut accounts.

In **Geography** we will be learning about energy resources around the world. We will learn what sustainability is and why it is important for our futures. These lessons will be supplied from Oak National and organised by Mrs Phillips.

In **Art** we will learn how to draw portraits. We will develop our skill of using a pencil and we will also draw in the style of Pablo Picasso to create a colourful portrait in cubism.

PE this term will be a combination of multi skills and gymnastics.

In **RE** we will be looking at the importance of the Torah for Jews and the importance of the resurrection for Christians.

Music is now being taught by Mrs Lindy Buckley. This term children will be learning about Samba music.

Home Learning:

Have a go at DoodleMaths, DoodleTables, DoodleEnglish and DoodleSpell. These can be accessed at home and parents can create an account to monitor their child's progress. Topic work will also be set and children will be asked to complete a project on British Birds.

This year we have been told that Year 6 SATs and Year 4 times-tables assessment will not be taking place. I will keep the parents of Year 6 informed about end of year assessment when I have been made aware of what will replace SATs.

We will always endeavour to be available if you have anything you would like to talk about regarding your child in Torridge class, however big or small. Please also contact us via our email addresses which you have.

Let's hope the rest of 2021 is a little smoother than last year but we have no doubt that your children's enthusiasm and willingness to learn will continue to grow. They show such resilience and determination – we are very proud of them!

Best wishes

Wendy Evans

Rosy Phillips

Stacey Rogers