**ELM CLASS NEWSLETTER Spring TERM 1**

**Half term topic – Our Idyllic World… but for how much longer?**

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and are feeling refreshed for the New Year. This half term will be full of lots of excited learning as well as preparation for SATs. We aim to introduce the children to SAT style questions in a friendly and relaxed way to help combat any unnecessary fears and worries. Myself (Mrs Simpson) and Miss Gemma will all be aiding Elm Class with their fun and learning this half term.

I will communicate with parents mainly through the use of Class Dojo but will also be available to email parents where necessary.

*Our curriculum for this half-term is as follows:*

**English:** This half term we will be looking at non-fiction writing. We will be researching Greta Thunberg and breaking down the features she uses when speech writing. We will then be creating our own persuasive speeches. We will be using our knowledge of the active and passive voice to develop these speeches further.

We will also have weekly grammar, handwriting and reading sessions to further support the children’s literacy skills. Children will be given a reading book to take home. These will come into school every day and can be changed when needed. If the children would like to bring in a book from home that they are enjoying this is also ok.

**Maths:** Our first topic will be ration and scale factors. We will then move on to looking at percentages and will explore converting between fractions, decimals and percentages as well as working out percentages of whole amounts. We will then move on to looking at algebra and equations. All learning is linked to the real-world for the children as we aim to teach maths with a practical approach that links to problems the children will come across in their lives. The children will have opportunities to look at SAT style questions to help them with their reasoning skills.

**Science:** Our Science topic is ‘Electricity’. We will look at circuit symbols and create our own circuits, particularly focusing on the connection between the voltage of cells and brightness of bulbs (or volume of buzzer).

**Computing:** In computing we will be looking at spreadsheets. We will be creating our own spreadsheets for a range of different scenarios such as saving pocket money and planning a school event.

**PE:** PE will take place on **Monday and** **Wednesday afternoons** and will be athletics and basketball. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit and school jumper on both Mondays and Wednesdays. PE clothes will be red t-shirt, PE hoodie or school sweatshirt/cardigan and black shorts, leggings or joggers and pumps or trainers (no PE bags can be brought into school).

**RE:** Our focus this term will be on ‘Eucharist’. During our lessons we will learn all about the links between the Passover meal, the Last Supper and Eucharist. We will also investigate the symbolism connected with Eucharist.

**PSHE:** In PSHE we will be looking at ‘Keeping Safe’. In this unit we will be thinking about keeping safe online as well as in the real world. We will also think about drugs and alcohol, ensuring we know the law and how to stay safe.

**GEOGRAPHY:** In geography we will be looking at weathering and erosion. We will be looking particularly at coastal changes; investigating how and why our coasts change over time.

**HOMEWORK:** Please note that Elm class will be given a small piece of homework on a Friday which they will have the weekend to complete before handing it in on a Monday. When handed in they will be awarded 5 dojos. This homework will be SATs based to help prepare the children and increase their comfortability with the styles of questions. This will also help them build their organisation and time management skills for when they move to high school.

*Expectations:*

· No equipment brought into school (e.g. pencil cases) into school as all equipment will be provided.

· PE kits must be worn to school on a Thursday with appropriate footwear (e.g. trainers) no additional clothing can be brought into school.

· Read at home and bring reading book to school each day.

· Completing all homework tasks.

· Having a good attitude towards work.

· Showing good behaviour which follows our core Christian values.

· Being prepared to have a go and not give up.

**General Timetable**

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| --- | --- |
| Monday | SATs homework returned.  PE – Basketball |
| Tuesday |  |
| Wednesday | PE - Athletics |
| Thursday |  |
| Friday | SATs homework given |

Kind regards,

**Mrs Simpson**