

# Rubies and Sapphires

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you have had a lovely break. It has been great to hear about what you have been doing with your family and friends.

This term our topic is Nurturing Nurses. We will be learning about Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole and what they did to improve nursing. After half term we will be moving on to the topic 'Our Country', where we will be learning about the 4 different countries in the UK and their capital cities.

In Science, we will be starting off with the topic 'Everyday Materials'. The children will learn about different materials and their properties. We will even be conducting our own science experiment. After half term we will be learning about different Scientists and Inventors. We will be exploring different inventions, such as Lego and ear muffs and also research the important work that vets and zookeepers do.

In English, we will be continuing our focus on handwriting, forming our letters correctly with leading lines, and using the correct punctuation (capital letters, full stops, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks and question marks) and spellings. We will be looking at a variety of writing types, such as instructions and fictional stories, including traditional stories.

In Mathematics, we will be learning about multiplication, division and properties of shapes. Next half term we will focus on fractions and measuring length and height. We will continue working on our reasoning and problem solving skills and recording our work neatly.

P.E. will continue to take place twice a week and will remain on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Every week the children will be completing Basketball with the external P.E. teachers and we will also be doing Dance. Please can the children continue to come into school wearing their P.E. kit on the days underlined.

In addition to this, we will still be doing Religious Education, Computing, Music, PSHE, Art and DT.

For homework, we are continuing on with our termly selection of Maths and English activities for your children to complete at home. This does not need to be brought into school to be marked but please ask if you are concerned about any of the activities. This term there are more games to play on the internet and if you have any issues accessing these games please let us know. In addition to maths and English activities, we will be sending home the topic homework. There are a few activities which it may be easier to complete later on in the term once we have progressed through the topic and these are indicated on the grid, but otherwise the children can choose which task they complete each week. Please record this in their homework books and bring them back into school by Wednesday every week to be marked. The benefits of completing the tasks are huge and children have enjoyed sharing their homework with others in class.

We are introducing Guided Reading for all children in Year 1 and 2 this term. This is an opportunity to read as part of a small group, taking turns to read pages of a shared book and discussing the book as a group. If your child has read in a Guided Reading group that day you will

see a Guided Reading stamp in their book. We will not hear them read individually on that day, but should their reading book need changing this will be done.

We are also asking that you continue to hear your children read throughout the week (ideally every day). Please ask them a question about what they have read to check their comprehension (please refer to the questions given out during Parent's Evening appointments). Additionally, please continue to practice weekly spellings and times tables. Scores will be written in your child's reading record and the tests will continue to take place each Friday. If the times table remains the same, we will not write it in until it changes.

We are always available to discuss any concerns or answer any questions after school.

Best wishes

Miss Muller and Mrs Riddaway