

Dear Parents,

I hope that the children had an enjoyable and relaxing break and are feeling refreshed.

Topic

This term, we are again looking at the question of ‘Why do people travel across the sea?’ Our focus is History and Geography based, learning about the sailor Ellen MacArthur and the Titanic as different examples of people travelling across oceans. We will look at stories of passengers on the Titanic and investigate the impact of the Titanic’s voyage on boat building since 1912. We will then look at Ellen MacArthur’s record-breaking solo round the world voyage of 2004-2005. We will read her diary to learn more about the voyage and the course that she took. We will also learn about properties of the five oceans.



In English we will be writing instructions and looking at how to organise our writing into sections with subheadings. We will also be reading ‘The Owl who was afraid of the Dark’ and writing about the baby owl’s adventures. A key focus is on using capital letters and full stops correctly, so please check your child is using punctuation correctly in any writing done for homework. In Guided Reading, we will be introducing VIPERS (Vocabulary Infer Predict Explain Retrieve Sequence), with a particular focus on answering inference style ‘Why’ questions and explaining our opinions about books.

In Maths we will be adding and subtracting two-digit numbers by partitioning into tens and ones. Towards the end of November, we will also introduce multiplication as repeated addition and equal groups before starting to look at the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. You can help by playing games that practise the use of number facts (such as ‘Fishy Fishy Fingers’, ‘Make 10’ or ‘Add 10’) and the 2 times table.

Timetable

P.E. lessons take place on Friday afternoons so your child will need to come to school in a **named** P.E. kit and trainers on those days. Recorder lessons will start on Wednesday afternoons so please make sure your child’s recorder is in school every Wednesday.

Homework

We have Maths, English and spelling homework every week, posted on Google Classroom on a Friday and to be returned by the following Wednesday. This term, for spelling, we are learning more common words before moving on to spelling patterns. We will talk about adding suffixes at the ends of words, as well doubling, swapping and dropping letters. To change mud to muddy, we double the consonant before adding the suffix y. To change shine to shiny, we drop the e before adding the suffix y.

Thank you for reading at home so frequently – it makes a big difference. I am thrilled that almost all the children are reading every day and I can see the positive effect this is having on their progress in reading. Please make sure that your child has their Reading Record book and reading book in school every Monday and Thursday so that we can change books and update our reward chart.

Towards the end of the term, all children will be doing the Phonics Check, postponed from Year 1. If your child has any phonics cards to use for practising phonics, please use them when your child is reading with you.

Please continue to send your child to school with a named water bottle and a waterproof coat every day. The children have benefitted from being responsible for their own possessions so please continue to encourage your child to be as independent as possible. It is lovely to see the children in Year 2 coming into school so well by themselves in the morning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at class2@ramsbury.wilts.sch.uk. We will try to respond to your email as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Juliet Rean