



Squirrels Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2 2017



Welcome back! We hope you have had a fun and restful half-term. Our new topic leading up to Christmas is 'Chocolate' - as you can imagine, the children are very excited about this!

English

The first part of our Grammar work this half-term will be consolidating the use of apostrophes to show singular and plural possession and also contractions. Year 4s will be learning about subordinate clauses. While, year 5s will be looking at the use of adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility. As always, we will be focusing on letter joins and handwriting.

We will begin the year focusing on research skills and compiling a non-chronological report based around 'Chocolate'. We will then be moving on to persuasive writing (which will tie in nicely with our Design and

Technology topic) where we will be discovering how advertisers make sure we buy their product! Finally we will finish with some Christmas poetry.



Reading

We were so proud of how many of the children received Reading Certificates at the end of the half-term and would love for them to keep up the good work! Please remember to sign the reading diary so we can record number of times read and change books when needed. In class, your child will take part in daily guided reading sessions, which includes reading with an adult, a spelling and handwriting activity, as well as a comprehension session.



Maths

Both year groups will be working on addition and subtraction - using the formal written columnar method (Year 4s: 4 and 5 digits and year 5s: will go beyond this by working with numbers of and up to 7 digits.).

We will be developing our recall of multiplication and division facts and using these to solve missing number, correspondence and scaling problems.



© scholastic inc.

Science

In Science the children will be looking at the digestive system in humans and also



Squirrels Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2 2017



identifying different types of teeth and their functions and why it is so important to look after them!



History/Geography

This half-term we will be finding out how chocolate is made and focusing on a region of South America. The children will also be learning about fairtrade.



Art and Design Technology

During 'Our World Week' the children will be creating portraits using oil pastels in the style of Picasso. The children will be finding out about the art movement of cubism and why Picasso chose to paint himself as he did, including the use of

colour and shapes.



In DT the children will be designing and making their own chocolate bars, then thinking about how they would sell them (before they eat them!).

Computing

The children will be learning about being toy designers. They will be creating an interactive toy before using Scratch to create an interactive virtual prototype of it using simple programming commands. They will then test it and work on making improvements.

RE

The children will continue to study Islam



and look at the content of the Qur'an before moving on to the Christmas message.

French

The children will be studying 'Pocket Money' which includes learning about likes and dislikes, birthday presents and Christmas gifts.

Physical Education

This will take the form of invasion games and dance. Although most children have their PE kits in school, please ensure your child has a complete, named PE Kit in school at the start of the half-term. Please remember that your child will be taking part in outdoor PE sessions, as a result of this, please ensure they have tracksuit bottoms and a jumper in their PE kit.

PSHCE

We will be thinking about diversity in our community and about managing risk.

Library



Squirrels Curriculum Letter - Autumn Term 2 2017



Your child will continue to have the chance to choose a book from the library, please help them remember to return it or sadly they will not be allowed to take another one home.



Snacks

Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack for playtime in the form of fresh fruit or vegetables (sorry no fruit winders or cereal bars).

Homework

Homework will be sent out on Thursdays, to be handed in on Tuesdays for year 5s and Wednesdays for Year 4s. As your child is now in Key Stage 2 please strongly encourage them to complete their homework with pride by



showing good presentation and returning it to school on time.

End of Day

In Key Stage 2 children are given the responsibility of finding their parent or carer at the end of the day rather than the teacher, this is to help encourage independence. We ask them to return to the teacher if they are not able to see the person responsible for collecting them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter - it should be a fun half term with the exciting lead up to Christmas! If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. You can find me at the classroom door in the mornings and afternoons or make an appointment through the office.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all, parents and children, for making me feel so welcome in my first half-term at Birchanger, I'm looking forward to getting to know you more throughout the year!

Kind regards,

Miss Spence

