



Pygmy Class Newsletter Term 3&4

'They sound similar but are they the same?'

Throughout Term 3&4 we will be exploring the continents of North and South America.

In Term 3, we will be focusing on developing our map skills - locating the two continents and the countries found within North and South America. We will be learning how to use grid references including lines of longitude and latitude. We will also be comparing the physical and human characteristics of the two continents as well as comparing them to the UK. The children's knowledge and understanding will then develop further by comparing the lives of people living in Rio de Janeiro compared to Sao Paulo, London compared to Liverpool and New York compared to San Francisco. We will then move onto learning about economic activity including trade links as well as imports and exports, and any natural resources these continents have such as energy, food, minerals and water. Finally for Term 3, we will explore climate change and the differences in how these continents are dealing with this issue.

In Term 4, we will have more of a historical approach and we will be learning about the Aztecs. This will include: looking at a timeline of the Aztecs in relation to others studied previously and to British History. Following this, the arrival of Hernan Cortes and how he conquered the Aztecs (using primary and secondary sources.) The children will be finding out about how the Aztecs lived their lives including why they used floating gardens, their beliefs and religion (including sacrifice) and we will be comparing this with Britain. To finish off, we will compare the Aztecs with people in North America such as the Pilgrims and Native Indians.

In our Art/DT lessons we will be learning how to do screen printing (Native American Art) in Term 3. In Term 4, we will be learning how to Batik an Aztec design to design and make a class carnival costume.

We are thrilled to have had KIC theatre visiting us again to help us engage the children with this topic at the start of Term 3. We will also be having a chocolate making workshop and hope to end Term 4 with our very own carnival!

Class news:

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and managed to stay safe and well. Term 3 & 4 are very important for children in Year 6 as this is our last push for the children to be able to fully showcase what they can do during the SATs test in May. It is therefore really important they complete their homework to the very best of their ability AND it is handed in on time. Your child/ren also need to be reading regularly at home and filling in their reading record, this could be something that is part of their daily bedtime routine ensuring they have time away from a screen before going to sleep. Like you, we want the very best for your children so please make sure they know that you want this too. It is important that they try their very best in all of their lessons as well as taking pride in their achievements. If you would like some more ideas of how to help your children at home to be fully prepared, we have added some new websites onto this newsletter. This could be in addition to their homework which we set for them. We will of course be continuing with a broad and balanced curriculum so they can still enjoy a range of subjects. If you have any questions, or require any further support before our parental consultations in March, please come and make an appointment with us. As you know, Miss Winfield left us at the end of Term 2 to spend more time with her family, so Mrs Weston will be in year 6 full time for Term 3. We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2022!

Mrs Cooper Mrs de Roeck Mrs Paggett Mrs Weston

In English we will be using an animation called 'The lighthouse' to support the children in writing a short story with added description. The children will learn how to develop their writing by moving from 1st to 3rd person and we will be constantly encouraging children to use higher level punctuation.

In Term 4, the children will write a non-chronological report on a country of their choice from one of the continents studied. This will be a much more formal style of writing but we will still be working on punctuation, sentence structure and ambitious vocabulary to interest the reader.

In Maths we will be finishing off our fractions topic. We will also look at some geometry, with a particular focus on co-ordinates, including translations and reflections. We will then move onto decimals, and understanding how to complete the four operations with them. The children will also use their fractions knowledge to convert them to decimals, and then build on this with work on finding percentages.

Don't forget to encourage your child to play on Times Table Rocks Stars at home—their times table knowledge will be invaluable for the Maths work that we are doing for the next two terms!

In Science we will be learning about 'Electricity' in Term 3. The children will be building on previous knowledge of circuits, and thinking about how the components work. At the end of the topic, the children have a go at building their own scarecrow powered by electrical circuits.

In Term 4, we will be focussing on 'Light'. We will learn about light sources, and how light travels. We will look at how shadows are formed, and link this to our knowledge of materials that are opaque, translucent and transparent.

PE- In Term 3 on Wednesdays we will be practising our netball skills, and in Term 4, we will be playing hockey. The children will continue to have sessions with Elite on Tuesdays.

In computing, the children will be learning about databases in Term 3, and coding in Term 4.

Our **PSHCE** topic this Term is Living in the Wider World, and RE will focus on creating a code for living.

Useful websites:

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/sats/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/index.html>

http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_fcp/client_fcp/ks2/maths/maths_booster/booster.html

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/home_y6flash.shtml

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z7mtsbk>

<http://www.everyschool.co.uk/english-key-stage-2-comprehension-3.html>

How you can help your child:

- make sure they have plenty of sleep
- make sure they have a good breakfast
- try to read with them every day
- help them to learn their spellings or encourage them to use spelling shed at home
- support them in completing any homework tasks
- encourage them to speak to an adult if they are having problems with anything
- make sure they are on time and in school every day
- you could also ask them what they have been learning in school