



# Pygora 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 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 Term 4, we will be focusing on developing our map skills - locating the two continents and the countries found within North and South America. 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 our art lessons we will be learning will be learning about printing and will create our own Aztec prints in term 3.

We are thrilled to have 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. Thank you for all Christmas gifts we received it was very kind of you. The children had a excellent first week back and it was lovely to see them. Now the Christmas celebrations have finished, it's time to continue with working hard and learning as much as we can. It is therefore really important your child completes 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 (at least twice a week), this could be something that is part of their daily bedtime routine ensuring they have time away from a screen before going to sleep. 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 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. We are all excited to take the children swimming this term. PE has changed to a Monday for this term and will be taught by Mr Harlow. We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2022!

*Mr Harrison   Mrs Neall   Mrs Simmons   Mrs Pilbeam*

**In English** we will be using an animation called 'Ruin'. To start this Term, will be looking at writing setting descriptions. We will then be looking at writing some excellent monologues and finally creating an animated film to retell the story of Ruin.

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 finish off our area and perimeter topic. We will then move onto multiplication and division.

For the children to be successful in this up coming unit, it is vital they know their timetables.

Therefore, don't forget to encourage your child to play on Times Table Rockstars at home – their times table knowledge will be invaluable for the Maths work that we are doing for the next two terms!

We will also be continuing with our arithmetic Fridays this Term.

**In Science** we will be learning about 'Forces' in Term 3 and 4 .

The children will be learning what a force is, the types of forces that can be found and how they affect our daily lives.

We will be looking at doing a number of different practical experiments in class.

In the coming weeks, we will study the impact of gravity on falling objects, create parachutes to see the impact of air resistance and build cars to see how friction affects moving vehicles.

**In PE** in Term 3 (**Monday**) we will be practising our netball skills. In Term 4, we will be playing hockey. The children will be going swimming on Tuesdays.

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

Our **PSHCE** topic this Term is Citizenship and **RE** will focus on what Jesus would do.

#### **Useful websites:**

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<http://www.mad4maths.com/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-5>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-5>

<https://sciencebob.com/category/experiments/>

<https://www.artforkidshub.com/how-to-draw/>

#### ***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*