

LEARNING @ ORSETT THROUGH SKILLS



Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you had a great summer and the children enjoyed their time off over the last few weeks. This half term, Class 5 will be focusing on the fascinating theme of *Ancient Egypt*. They will learn about this ancient civilisation and the many fascinating aspects of its culture including the way in which the Ancient Egyptians lived, family life, clothing, food and their beliefs through the specific National Curriculum (NC) skills that need to be mastered by the children.

Below is an outline of what the children will be learning about:

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING	The children will be considering the properties of changes of materials including how to demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes as well as how to explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible. They will also be learning how to separate materials using different techniques.
ICT	This area of learning will result in the children being able to make their own website about the Ancient Egyptians. They will begin by learning that information found online is not always true and unbiased and how to think critically about the information that they put online. The unit will also cover the key e-Safety skills required in using the internet.
HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL UNDERSTANDING	In this area of learning, the children will discover where Egypt is, who the Ancient Egyptians were, what life was like in Ancient Egypt before looking at specific aspects of the civilisation including mummification and their belief system.
UNDERSTANDING THE ARTS	Through Art and DT, children will develop their use of a sketchbook to record their ideas and extend their skills in using a range of media including charcoal and paint. The unit will end with the children creating their own 3D Egyptian mask using the ideas they have gathered.
UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Children will take part in gymnastics this term, developing their use of apparatus as well as refining their technique in net, court and wall games including tennis. During PSHE sessions, children will consider how to form effective relationships including negotiating and compromise as well as thinking about how and what to keep confidential and what to share with others. These sessions will also consider what is acceptable and unacceptable physical contact.
RE/CHRISTIAN VALUE	This half term's Christian value is friendship. In RE sessions, children will be looking at the theme of 'Creation'. This unit will concentrate on the account given in the Bible giving children an opportunity to consider its meaning and how this relates to the 'Big Story' of the Bible. The children will also think about how many Christians find science and faith go together.

Every child will experience a variety of different ways of learning including reading, writing, mathematics, problem solving, illustrating, working independently and working collaboratively and their progress towards the NC Skills will be continually assessed again in a variety of ways. Teaching it this way, will not only help the children see the relevance of the learning, actively enjoy it but also inspire them achieve higher standards in their work. If anyone has related skills, resources, experience and knowledge they are willing to share please let me know as soon as possible, as the more information and support that your child has, the more successful their learning will be.

In addition, during the half term, we are hoping to have a visit from 'Portals to the Past' who will be holding an interactive and hands-on history workshop about the Ancient Egyptians. The children will participate in activities through the day as they learn about what happens following the death of a mighty Pharaoh including tomb building, the mummification process, burial ceremonies and, finally, the crowning of a new Pharaoh.

LEARNING @ ORSETT THROUGH SKILLS



Homework: As you know here at Orsett we always encourage our children to continue their learning outside of school. We do expect that all children will read daily and will learn the relevant spelling and time tables for the year group. We also will be working with the children over the next week to agree their Extended Homework expectations and these will be sent out to you on **Monday 10th September** so that you are aware of the areas that your child will be working towards at home and also the agreed deadlines.

Other Info: Our PE sessions will be on **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for outside sessions. **If they wear trainers for PE they must be non-marking and black, and they can only be worn if the children change into them for PE.**

If anyone has related skills, resources, experience and knowledge they are willing to share please let me know as soon as possible, as the more information and support that your child has, the more successful their learning will be.

Yours faithfully,

D Partridge
Class Teacher