15th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter is designed to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the spring term and provide you with information about the skills, knowledge and concepts that are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

**Numeracy:** We are continuing with the very successful Singapore Maths approach to teaching and embedding skills such as mental maths, reasoning and problem solving. One of the key principles behind Singapore Maths is the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach, often referred to as the CPA approach. A Maths lesson typically includes: The Anchor Task, which will allow children to explore multiple methods of solving a problem; a Maths Journal Task which is an opportunity for children to provide a visual and written reflection on which key methods work for them; Guided Practice, where activities are completed collaboratively, and finally Independent Practice where pupils have the opportunity to reinforce concepts by solving a range of problems from a workbook.

The topics covered this term in Numeracy will be:

- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Graphs
- Fractions
- Decimals
- Telling time on a 24 hour clock

**Literacy:** In Key Stage 2 literacy is taught through high quality texts and comprise of *Big Reading* and *Big Writing* lessons. These lessons are designed to best equip our learners in all literary devices, giving greater context to the children’s learning on which to build comprehension. We concentrate primarily on vocabulary, connectives, sentence openers and punctuation. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types. Their writing is inspired by texts of different genres which are, wherever possible, linked to their Project. An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for their ‘Big Writing’ I will be sending home weekly ‘Big Talk’ homework. This is designed to give parents an opportunity to
discuss their children’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process, of which talking is a key part.

During Big Reading lessons, the children will explore a text over the course of the week. They will discuss the text in depth and then go on to analyse different aspects of the text. Finally they will complete a ‘Mini Mission’ where they will produce a written analysis of an aspect of the text. This term we will be using a wide variety of texts about Ancient Egypt and other subjects.

In all classes we endeavour to encourage children to develop a love of reading. It is essential that children read on a regular basis at home, both to an adult and independently. Children are encouraged to bring a book home to read every day and we suggest a minimum of 15 minutes a day reading at home.

**Spellings:** In addition to the daily focus on using correct spellings, dictionaries and the phonics scheme, we also hold our own Spelling Bee competition. The words that are expected to be learned for each Spelling Bee heat will be embedded into their classroom learning. Along with a selection of Spelling Bee words, we shall also be sending home spelling patterns to be learnt for our fortnightly spelling tests.

**Science:** The children will be learning about ‘States of Matter’ in the first half term, where they will explore solids, liquids and gases. They will go on to learn about the importance of the water cycle to our planet. In the second half of the term the children will be learning about the science of sound. They will explore how sound is created and investigate sound proofing.

**Project:** This term, the children will be learning about Ancient Egypt. We will be exploring the importance of the River Nile as well as investigating the beliefs and culture of the Ancient Egyptians. We will be visiting the excellent Ancient Egyptian galleries at the British Museum and participating in a workshop about tomb paintings.

**Music:** The children will be following the music curriculum with Miss Parker as well as learning to play the Ukulele.

**Religious Education:** Our theme this term is about exploring beliefs about death.

**Physical Education:** Children will be continuing swimming for the first part of half term and then turn our focus to learning dance and team sports from February. We will continue our focus on running regularly (at least 3 times per week but daily if we can manage to). The children will also continue to be taught outdoor games by Mr Graham. Outdoor Games will take place every Monday. Your children should bring their P.E. kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday.

**Art/DT:** Art and DT will continue to be incorporated into Project and Science lessons.

**Information Communication Technology and Computing:** This term children will be exploring using data and programming. Learning will be incorporated into the project and science lessons.

**French:** The children will continue to learn French taught by Miss Muir.
**Homework:** The homework set for this term will support your child’s learning in class. The purpose is to practise and reinforce the work children have learnt in the week. As previously mentioned, I will also be sending home ‘Big Talk’ homework, which is an important part of the children’s preparation for Big Writing. This will be set on Thursday and is due in on Friday. Other homework includes a Maths task and an English activity. These tasks are set on Friday and are due in on Tuesday. We also encourage children to use the online programme Mathletics to support their mathematics learning.

Please can you ensure that your children are learning their spellings as these form a vital part of achieving the expected standards for writing? In addition, children should now be able to recite all their times tables fluently.

You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office, and also on the school website. We recommend that you download our school app, if you haven’t already done so, as all the information you need is there. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Other general letters are sent by email. Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent on paper via the children’s book bags; all payments for trips and cooking should be made via the school app.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Clowes  
Class teacher

Miss Martin  
Head teacher