

## Juniors Class Owl – February 2020

Please see below for information about the next half term in the Junior class.

**English:** We will begin the half term with a week of lessons based on our World Book Day text: *Where The Wild Things Are*. We will then study a unit about explanation texts, based on the books *Until I Met Dudley* by Roger McGough and *Charlie Small Gorilla City* by Nick Ward. The children will also write a non-chronological report about pirates. The children will be expected to review, edit and improve their writing and to provide constructive criticism of the writing of others.

**Reading:** Children will be reading every day at school and will also take part in guided reading and comprehension activities. Please encourage your children to read at home as much as possible.

**Spelling:** Spellings will be given to the children every Friday and tested the following Thursday. This will be either a list of statutory words or a spelling rule to learn. There will also be regular spelling lessons focussed on specific spelling rules, as well as regular grammar and punctuation lessons.

The children will also be bringing a library book home with them each Friday. This will be a book of their choice to enjoy at home. Please remember to return the book each Friday in order to be able to choose another one.

**Maths:** This term will cover a range of topics such as formal written addition and subtraction; perimeter and area of shapes; and written multiplication and division.

**Times Tables:** By the end of Year 4, the children should know all of their times tables up to 12x12. Times tables will be practiced and tested regularly. Children will be completing TT Rockstars activities based on their set tables numerous times a week, both via paper worksheets and the online games. Children can access TT Rockstars and the online games from home, on a laptop or tablet. Please encourage your child to learn their times tables and to complete Mathletics and times table activities each week.

**Science:** This half term, our Science topic is Plants. We will learn about the different parts of a plant, and work scientifically and collaborative to investigate what plants need to grow. The children will explore how water is transported within plants, and learn about the important of pollination. They will work in a hands-on way to identify the parts of a flower, and will explore the different stages of the life cycle of a flowering plant.

**Topic:** This half term, we will continue our Topic of Rainforests. We will explore the different layers of the rainforest and investigate the different animals and people who live there. We will compare rainforests with forests in the UK and will also learn about conservation issues surrounding the

destruction of rainforests, and the impact on the climate. The children will acquire and practise skills in Art (creating artwork based around animals living in the rainforest and inspired by the work of Henri Rousseau), in D&T (designing and making a rainforest-themed bean bag using sewing skills) and the children will also use ICT skills to undertake related research.

**Music:** All children in Y3 and some children in Y4 will have a weekly tenor horn lesson with Mr Lavelle. A weekly class music session will also take place to listen to and experiment with sound and a range of instruments. The Year 4s are busy learning their songs for Youth Makes Music.

**French:** French lessons are taught by Mrs Bliss. The children will be learning basic French vocabulary each week such as colours, numbers and greetings. They will be able to hold simple conversations in French.

**R.E.:** R.E. lessons are taught by Mrs Bliss. This half term, the children will be learning about the Sikh faith. They will explore Sikh beliefs and traditions, and compare them with those from Christian worship.

**PE:** PE lessons will be on Tuesdays. As the weather remains cold, please make sure your child has warm clothes for outdoor PE sessions. Children need to have trainers or plimsolls in school every day to enable them to use the climbing frame. Please ensure that all of your child's clothes are named. Swimming lessons are on Wednesdays. Goggles are not permitted unless for a medical condition when a letter is required. All children need a swimming hat for swimming lessons. Your child must bring a coat to school on swimming days as they can get very cold after their swim.

PSHE: We will continue to use our Jigsaw friends to think about our dreams and goals.

If you need to contact me, please come and see me at the door in the morning before the bell, write a note in your child's Home School Communication book, arrange a meeting, or send an email to [k.riches@reed.herts.sch.uk](mailto:k.riches@reed.herts.sch.uk). Please note that your email may not get a response straight away, and any emails sent in the evenings and over a weekend/holiday will not be answered until the next school day.

Yours sincerely,  
Miss Riches