



Donington on Bain Primary School

Inspire, Enrich, Achieve

Class 4 Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 2. This term will be a busy one, and we will be working hard until Christmas. Please find below the curriculum and home learning expectations for this coming term. It was lovely to see so many parents at parent's evening before the break. If you could not make it and would like to discuss your child's progress, please do get in touch.

Our Topic this term continues to be **BRITAIN AT WAR**.

Our **Geography** skills are focused on understanding which countries were involved in the First and Second World War, and how the key physical and human geography of the countries helped or hindered progress.

In **History**, we will be looking at significant people involved in WW2 and how they influenced history. We will be looking at key events of the war, and how these events have influenced modern day Britain.

In **Science** we are studying evolution and inheritance. This project teaches children how living things on Earth have changed over time and how fossils provide evidence for this. We will learn how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring and how variation in offspring can affect their survival.

In **Art and DT**, we will be looking at Bees, Beetles and Butterflies, exploring observational drawing, mixed media collage and Pop Art. We will also be exploring the concept of "Make Do and Mend," looking at wartime recipes, exploring textiles and different stitching types and also how to mend and recycle.

In **Music**, we will be exploring Blues music, understanding and learning key features of blues music and its composition.

In **Computing**, we will be learning about stop motion and how we can use cameras and small movements to create a short film. We will also be developing our online safety awareness.

In **French**, we will be developing conversational skills, introducing and talking about ourselves and general greetings. We will also be studying how we can describe the different things we can find in our homes.

In **RE**, we will be looking at the similarities and differences between Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism with a focus on asking questions about the meaning of life. We will also be looking at the Christmas story.

P.E. and Nature School will continue to be taught by JB Sports and Mrs Smith. PE this term is invasion skills linked to hockey. (Our next block of Nature School starts this week)

PE and Nature School days are Mondays and Tuesdays.

Children should come to school in their school PE kits on both days and dressed appropriately for the weather including long legs for Nature School.



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English – our stimulus for this term’s learning is World War 2. We will be exploring a wide range of texts and extracts including War Monkey, Goodnight Mr Tom, Letters from the Lighthouse and Narnia to enable us to write diary entries, a portal story and descriptions around various wartime scenes and scenarios. We will also be thinking about Remembrance. We will be exploring a range of texts and poetry to enable us to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes and describe thoughts, feelings and emotions.

Maths – our focus this term is the four operations. We will be developing our understanding of the mental and formal written processes of addition and subtraction, short and long multiplication and division, including problem solving with these. We will also be exploring fractions, mixed numbers, improper and equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing them. We will then be looking at percentage and decimal equivalents and how these all tie together in contextual reasoning situations. In line with National Curriculum expectations, all children should now know their times tables up to 12 x 12 so we will be ensuring this knowledge is strong.

Home Learning

Please support your child through the following activities at home:

- **Regular reading at home** – short daily sessions, and a minimum of three times every week is a vital part of children developing stamina and fluency in reading. Please record all reading in the reading record provided. Children will be heard read by an adult in school at least weekly and this will also be acknowledged in their reading record. If you would like any support with this, please ask.
- **Regular spelling practice** – spelling lists will be given for children to bring home, and children should be encouraged to practise their spellings at home, including all the Key Stage 2 statutory and common exception words. Regular informal assessments of spellings will be carried out.
- **Regular times tables practice** – short, frequent sessions have been proven to be the best way to learn and remember known number facts. A TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) login is given to all children and regular practice should be encouraged at home.
- **A long-term homework project** will also be set each term. Children should complete this as part of their homework and bring it to school towards the end of the term to present in class.

Homework Project Term 2:

Thinking ahead to Christmas in Wartime. Using ideas from our lessons, our trip when we will be experiencing Christmas during the war, our novel The War Monkey, and your own research, create an image, poem, artwork, collage or model for something Christmassy. You might want to design and make a Christmas decoration, make a child’s Christmas stocking, make an authentic 1940’s Christmas card or try and make a yummy Christmas treat from your rations. Be creative. I am excited to see what you come up with. Our projects are a huge part of our learning, so thank you for all your help and support with this. Projects are due in week beginning the **15th of December**.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at school. We are looking forward to working with you this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Gascoigne, Mrs Money, Mrs Bertie-Smith and Mrs Smith