

Saturn Class Autumn Term 2022 – Key Information

Welcome to the autumn term in Saturn class! Miss Wray and I have been very busy planning and preparing for a new academic year with our new Saturn Class! It promises to be packed to the brim with learning and lots of fun ahead!

This letter provides lots of important information about what your child will need each day, what their homework expectations are, important dates for the term, and our Autumn topics. Should you have *any* questions, please communicate them via your child's diary, ask on the door at home-time, or email me: nmetcalfe@winkle.cheshire.sch.uk
No question is too big or small!

Mental health and wellbeing

Although the initial impact of the pandemic has passed we will still be ensuring that mental health and well-being is an important element of our curriculum, through our PSHE curriculum and through our daily teaching. We have set up our 'How is your heart feeling today?' working wall, so that children can share how they are feeling upon arrival and our first English text relates directly to this display.

Dojos

We will be using our very popular dojo reward system this year. Children can be given dojos by any member of staff, for a number of reasons. It could be because they have been kind to another, or helpful, or they may have tried really hard in a piece of written work and impressed the teacher. Dojos are also given for reading at home and recording this in their homework diaries. Many dojos have already been awarded. It has been quite a hit with children and teachers alike. I am sure they are all looking forward to the end of term dojo shop, where they can 'spend' their dojos on a variety of small items. For example, pens and pencils, sweets, chocolate or fiddle toys.

Autumn Term Topics:

English

In English, we are continuing to use *The Write Stuff* approach to teaching writing. This involves heavily modelling how to construct different sentences for effect, and using the writing rainbow to support writing. The children have been enjoying Jo Witek's 'In My Heart: A Book of Feelings' and we are beginning some of our writing around the topic of feelings and emotions. As the days get shorter, we will read and write about 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. In Autumn 2 we have chosen 'The Great Fire of London' and then, in the run up to Christmas, 'My Christmas Star'.

We will continue using our current approach to teach spelling. Alongside teaching spelling rules and common exception words, we will continue to employ a phonics-based strategy, having a “sound of the week”. Please check that your child is practicing these new words at home each week and also finding as many new words to add to their grids as possible. More words equal more dojos!

Maths

In maths, we will be revisiting place value and securing our knowledge of number bonds to 20, then on to addition and subtraction before half term. We’ll also be learning about shape and money before Christmas.

Science

In science, our topic is ‘Light and Dark’. We will be learning about light sources, shadows and how light ‘works’. Then, before Christmas, we will be learning about electricity, going on to set up some circuits. Perhaps even combining this into our Christmas art work.

Geography & History

In geography, we will be consolidating our knowledge of the United Kingdom. We will be locating the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas on a globe. Using maps and photographs we will be looking at how to recognise physical and human features in all areas of the United Kingdom,

In history, we will be looking closely at the events of the Great Fire of London! Looking at what it was, how it happened and what the impact was in the city of London in 1666. After half term, we will continue to look at different events beyond living memory that are significant nationally, like the Gunpowder Plot and Remembrance Day.

RE

This half-term we will be learning more about how Christians understand God. We will also revisit the nativity story and learn about advent through our incarnation topic before Christmas.

Computing

We will be focussing on coding in the first half term and will use PurpleMash resources in our lessons. In the next half term, we will have a big focus on online safety and how to effectively search for something, using the internet. Pupils are welcome to continue this learning at home by accessing *PurpleMash*.

Art/DT

In Art and DT, we will be focussing on collage and sculpture. In the first half term as a link to our History lessons, we will be working on creating sculptures of houses. These will be just like the ones found in the time of the Great Fire of London. After half term we will be continuing our work on collage and be looking at other forms of sculpture.

Music

Our main focus in music for this half term, is to develop an understanding of rhythm. Then before Christmas we will work on pitch development through vocal work.

French

In French, we will be following our new curriculum developed by Cave languages, working on not only our French speech, but our ability to read and write the words that we can say.

PE

Saturn will be doing PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays and will need to wear their PE kit on those days. This half-term, we will be doing Dance on Mondays and Football on Thursdays with the coaches from PAS.

After half term we'll be doing Netball and Rugby with PAS.

PSHE

Our PSHE focus for this half term is 'All About Me', encouraging the children to identify themselves in positive terms. We will then move onto 'Bullying and Anti-bullying' (including online) before Christmas.

Our timetable for the autumn term:

We will have our timetable aligned with Mars class and share play times together. It may be useful to place this timetable somewhere where your child can refer to it each morning. Please note that timetables do sometimes have to change to accommodate events throughout the school week.

Weekly Homework:

Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Like all skills, when it comes to reading, practice makes perfect. Children would really benefit from reading to an adult at least 4 times a week, in addition to their daily reading to adults in school. Children who read to an adult less often than this are likely to fall behind.- Children should read their school reading book, but they are encouraged to read books from home too.- Shared reading with an adult should be used to check that the child understands what is going on in the text, understands the meaning of all words on the page, and can read fluently with expression.
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children will have a new focus sound each week, which will be glued in their diaries on Monday. As they read their reading book, they should copy any words containing the sound into the table in their diaries and practise their Common Exception words too, though there will be no formal spelling tests in school, because every child will have different spellings appropriate to their individual needs.
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Homework will be set on Tuesdays and will need to be handed in by Friday.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maths homework will be given on Fridays and can be handed in anytime between then and the following Tuesday.

Things to remember:

Monday	New spellings written in diary.	Things to bring <u>every day</u> : Homework diary Reading book Water bottle Waterproof coat Glasses (if worn).
Tuesday	Wear PE kit. Maths homework due and English homework set.	
Wednesday		
Thursday	Wear PE kit.	
Friday	English homework due and maths homework set.	

Dates for the diary:

Friday 16th September – ‘Meet the teacher’.

Monday 19th September – Queen’s Funeral – school closed

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October – Half Term break

Friday 16th December – Break up for Christmas