

Heathfield Junior School - Curriculum Bulletin

Applegate Class – Willow

Autumn 2023

Welcome back, we hope you all had a pleasant and relaxing Summer holiday! We begin another exciting school year, which is packed with fantastic learning and wider school opportunities. We are looking forward to working with you and your children so below is a summary of our curriculum for the Autumn term. **Please note** that if your child is attending their mainstream class for subjects, you will find their year group curriculum bulletin on our school website, as the topics being studied may be different.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Please ensure your child attends school every day, attendance is a key whole school priority and helps us to support your children with their learning. The Willow door opens at 8.45 and we advise that the children arrive as doors open. This enables them to access a soft start where staff are available to manage any concerns you or your child may have.

The Heathfield Way:

"The Heathfield Way" underpins all that we do in school. We expect all members of the Heathfield community to:

- Learn and let others learn
- Respect all people and property
- Work hard and try their very best

When children follow, 'The Heathfield Way' they will be awarded house points, which are recorded in their reading diary. All Heathfield pupils are placed into one of 4 houses- red, yellow, blue or green- when they join the school.

Reading Diary:

Reading and books are a huge part of our life at Heathfield. Therefore, all children are expected to read aloud to an adult at home **every** day for 20 minutes. After they have read, the children need to record the title of the book and comment about what they have read in their reading diary. An adult from home should then sign next to the comment. Your child's teacher will then read your child's comment and sign the reading diary too.

We understand that sometimes children find it hard to write a comment about what they have read so here are some ideas about what they might write about:

- What has happened in the book so far?
- Who is their favourite character and why?
- Who is their least favourite character and why?
- What they predict is going to happen next?



English: This term in English we will begin by studying the text 'Tell me a dragon' to help us develop and use descriptive vocabulary. We will be creating descriptive writing pieces about dragons and settings. We will then study 'leaf' and 'Ug: Boy genius of the stone age', the children will be writing letters, character descriptions and fact files. We will finish the Autumn term by reading a range of poetry from differing authors and creating our own unique poems.

Maths:

In maths we will be mastering a range of skills within the topics of: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measure, geometry and fractions.

Please continue to work with your child on learning their times tables. This is extremely important as it supports their learning in a range of mathematical areas.



In order to help your children learn their times tables, the school remains a member of 'Times Table Rock Stars'. This is an online website where your children can practise their times tables through fun and interactive games.

Your child's login details are located at the front of the reading journal. We will be using this website in school but also ask that children login and practise at home as well.

Science:

Upper Applegate- This term we will be studying 'Classifying Critters (Living Things and Their Habitats)' during Autumn 1 then 'Staying Alive (Animals Including Humans)' in Autumn 2.

Lower Applegate- This term we will be studying 'Forces' during Autumn 1 then 'Mirror Mirror' in Autumn 2.

In both terms we will be improving our scientific knowledge of both topics and improve our investigative skills through a range of practical experiments and experiences. A knowledge organiser will be published so that you can see an outline of the knowledge and skills your child will be taught in these topics.

Therapies:

Occupational Therapy- OT will remain on a Tuesday and will include gross and fine motor sessions designed to improve our core strength, balance, coordination and improve our handwriting. Sessions will also be built in to manage and support our sensory needs. We have a new therapist named Laura Harrison.

Speech and Language- SAL will remain on a Wednesday and will include groups involving some aspects of social thinking and shape coding within Autumn term. We will continue to work on our skills to engage our peers in conversation and continue our work on big and small problems. Chelsea Long will remain as our therapist.

Homework:

Homework is very important within school to help cement and embed our learning throughout the week and something we wish to re-launch this year. Homework will be set on a Monday to be returned by the following Monday - this will begin from Week 3.

If your child is attending mainstream English and/or Maths lesson, the homework will be set by their teacher on the days specified in their year group bulletin.

School Uniform Reminder: Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform to school. This includes wearing suitable shoes. Your child should also have full PE kit in school every day. This includes black or navy shorts, their house T-shirt and trainers.

Important dates: please also see your child's year group bulletin for key dates.

- Monday 9th/Tuesday 10th October – Parents' evening

How to contact us

We are always happy to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

If you need to make a general enquiry please contact the school office via telephone 020 8894 3525 or email: willow@heathfield-inf.richmond.sch.uk

Mrs M - Provision Leader and Class Teacher