

# Movers and Shakers Autumn term Squirrel class



Welcome back, after a well-deserved summer break. It is so wonderful and exciting to have all the children back at school. They are very happy to be back and have certainly done a lot of growing over the summer. I know that as parents you are all very supportive of my team, but also of each other. Therefore, I know that you will join me in welcoming the new Reception parents to our school family.

We have decided to change the way we deliver our topics over the course of the year. We are now going to have only one topic each term. So the topic we have just started will be the topic we do until December. As a team we feel there are many positive reasons for doing this and that it will mostly aid the children to gain a deeper understanding, and give them more time to gain new skills.

Our first topic for this year is called **Movers and Shakers**. This project teaches children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about the people featured and use historical models to explore their significance. In the Movers and Shakers project, your child will learn five statements from Dawson's model that will help them identify people who are historically significant and use the words year, decade and century to describe dates and times. They will study the life and impact of a significant person in the locality and of 10 significant individuals from around the world. They will complete in-depth studies of significant explorers Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong, and significant activists Emmeline Pankhurst and Rosa Parks and think carefully about the impact of their actions. The children will also carry out an independent study of a significant person from the past and learn about people who are significant today. They will also learn how significant people are commemorated and design a memorial for a person they have studied.

## Art

We will cover two different projects. The first is called **Still life**, this project teaches children about the work of significant still life artists and still life techniques. They explore a wide variety of still lifes and learn about the use of colour and composition. They create still life arrangements and artwork. The next project is called, **Mix it up**. This project teaches children about basic colour theory by studying the colour wheel and colour mixing. It includes an exploration of primary and secondary colours and how artists use colour in their artwork.

## Science

We will also cover two projects in Science this term. The first is called **Human survival**. This project teaches children about the basic needs of humans for survival, including the importance of exercise, nutrition and good hygiene. They learn how human offspring grow and change over

time into adulthood. After half-term we will explore **Habitats**. This project teaches children about habitats and what a habitat needs to provide. They explore local habitats to identify and name living things and begin to understand how they depend on one another for food and shelter.

### **Geography**

This project is called, Let's Explore the World. This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about atlases, maps and cardinal compass points. They learn about the characteristics of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. They also compare England to Somalia.

### **Design and technology**

This project teaches children about sources of food and tools used for food preparation. This is where are learning this term links to our trips at the end of the month, as they will find out first hand where are food comes from. They also discover why some foods are cooked and learn to read a simple recipe.

There are two homework tasks to choose from this half term. First task: **Choose five famous people and find out about their impact on the world. Can you rank them from who you think is the most to the least significant?**

The second task to choose from is: **Hunt around your house and in your local area for memorials that celebrate the lives and achievements of significant people. Examples could include coins, stamps, statues and road names. Take photographs of any that you find and share them with the class.** The homework needs to be in school for **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** (no earlier please due to storage space).

**Reading** books will be changed on a Monday and Friday. Phonics books will be changed once your child has read in three phonics sessions.  
**P.E**

All children will have PE on Monday with Mrs Whittle and on Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Pendle.

Thank you so much for your continued support with your children and their learning. Having a positive home/ school link greatly benefits your child/ren. **Please continue to support your children at home with their reading. Reading every night with your child is a good habit and a great way to set routines.**

Please feel free to come and talk to me if you have any queries. I do try to make myself available at the start of teach day - though if not urgent, I would encourage you to chat at the end of the day, as I will be able to give you more time. In addition, may I remind you to stay the other side of wooden fence in the morning, as it has a very positive impact on the start of the day.

Kind regards  
Sonia Whittle



