

Here we are heading into the final third of the school year with a half term that is short but packed full of exciting experiences! Of course, we have our residential trip to the Gordon Brown Centre (GBC) to look forward to, and we have also sneaked in an extra trip to the Sculpture Park in Churt for the end of the half term.

Learning

Here is a brief run-down of what we will be doing this term.

English – our writing journeys will be on the theme of ‘Fantastic Beasts and Mythical Creatures’. One of our tasks will be to create a poster to warn the people of Bentley about a monster on the loose!

Maths – we are continuing decimals, and then expanding the children’s understanding of money and time.

Science – while we are at GBC, we will be examining food chains and in class we will be finding out about the digestive system. If you have any expertise or specialist knowledge around the digestive system, it would be great if you could come in and share this with the class.

Geography – during the term we will be comparing Scandinavia with the UK, looking at where it is, what it is like and some of the culture. If you have any experience or specialist knowledge about Scandinavia that you could share with the class, we would love to hear from you.

Computing – we will be creating graphics using Logo, which will involve some active hand-on opportunities to learn about the stages of programming.

RE – our learning takes us beyond the Easter story to learn about the impact of Pentecost.

Design Technology – this term we will be planning and making salads and soup, while also thinking about food hygiene and what a balanced diet is. It would be lovely to have some parents or grandparents in to help with the cooking on Tuesday afternoons in the last two weeks of term.

Music – Year 4’s musical journey will take us through a catalogue of Beatles songs, focusing particularly on ‘Blackbird’.

PE – in preparation for Sports Day we will be refining our athletic skills with CM Sports. We are also lucky enough to be having weekly cricket sessions with ‘Chance to Shine’.

PSHE – we will be talking about our relationships with the special people and animals in our lives, and in particular focussing on the emotions around loss of a special person or pet. We will be handling this difficult topic very sensitively, but please do let us know anything we may need to consider in relation to your child.

Weekly routines

We have **PE** on Monday and Wednesday. However, we do like children to have their PE kit in school every day so that we can take up any extra activities that we may be offered.

Homework is given out on Wednesday, and is due in on following Monday.

On Thursday, Mr Goddard teaches **recorders**, so if your child has their own recorder they can bring it in on that day.

Our **library** slot is on Thursday.

Spellings are given out on Friday and are tested on the following Friday.

Trips

7th-10th May – Gordon Brown Centre residential. Thank you all for returning your child's completed medical and behaviour contract forms.

Tuesday 21st May – Sculpture Park, Churt. We will be spending the morning at the park and having a picnic lunch before returning to school for the afternoon. Please let us know if you can help by driving the minibus or walking around the park with us.

Reminders

Please ensure that your child reads five times every week as this forms part of their homework. They can read to you or themselves, but it should be recorded in their reading record. Your child can record their reading themselves as long as you sign it off either every time or at the end of the week. Reading records should be in class every day so that we can record if you child reads with us or with a volunteer.

Many of our class are enjoying Times Tables Rockstars and we are seeing fantastic progress as a result! Practising times tables on TTRockstars is a homework task, and so please encourage your child to log on at home. If you are unable to use the online version please let us know and we can print off practise sheets for your child to bring home.

Volunteers

We have regular reading volunteers on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to come in on a Monday afternoon to hear some readers we would love to hear from you.

Please also get in touch if you have any skills, experience or knowledge that you can share with the class that relates to any of our learning this term.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please do let me know if you have any questions regarding the information in this newsletter, and remember that I am available after school most days if you have any queries or concerns. Alternatively, you can email the school office, who will pass this onto me.