



Welcome to Thames Class, Spring term 2024!

Happy New Year! We have so enjoyed welcoming Thames Class back to school this week, and they have shown that they are ready for another term of busy and productive learning!

From 15th Jan until 14th March, we will be welcoming Zoe Pimlott to our Thames staff team, as she undertakes a placement from Oxford Brookes University.

Weekly activities

Mondays and Thursdays (please note extra day!): PE lessons. This term we will be playing tag rugby on the school field. On these days, children should come to school wearing PE kit and they will also need their trainers.

Wednesdays: Maths enrichment sessions at Radley College will continue this term. The children are really benefitting from this mentoring opportunity. Please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat for the walk over to Radley College.

Learning during the Spring Term

Our curriculum topic this term is Frozen Kingdoms. We'll be exploring this topic through our geography lessons on the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and we will also look at polar animals in our science and literacy work.

Our literacy texts this half term both focus on the theme of endangered species. Having read *Can We Save the Tiger* by Martin Jenkins, we'll be writing balanced discussions about the Siberian tiger. We will then be focusing on the story, *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold.



In science, our topic is evolution and inheritance. We have two exciting trips planned, one to Abingdon School science labs on Tuesday 23rd January and one to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History on Wednesday 24th January. More details of these trips to follow!

In maths, we will be learning about decimals and percentages, algebra, units of measurement, statistics, shape, and position and direction: a packed curriculum this term!

Values, RE and PSHE

Our value of the term is Resilience and we will be thinking about what this value means to us and how we can show it in our lives.

In RE, we will be focusing on Understanding Christianity.

In PSHE, we will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme. We'll be discussing our Dreams and Goals before half term, then our next topic will be Healthy Me.



Home Learning

Home learning activities will follow the same pattern as last term:

- Daily reading
- Weekly question about reading to discuss on Google Classroom
- Weekly spellings to learn for a quiz on Fridays
- Chilli Challenge menu of wider curriculum activities: The first chilli challenge menu this term runs until Fri 26th Jan.
- Times table practice is always useful too!

Staying in touch

Please do make contact with us through the school office or at the end of the school day if you have any questions or if you would like a conversation.

If you feel that there are any areas of this term's curriculum that you may be able to contribute to, please let us know. If you have an experience relating to the Arctic or Antarctica that you would be happy to share, we would particularly love to hear from you! We always appreciate help with hearing children read.

SATs Club (Year 6)

We will be running a Year 6 SATs Club every Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 am, and we hope that all the Year 6s would like to join in on one or both of the days! Please see the email sent separately for more details.

Thank you as always for all the support that you give with your child's learning. We send you and your families our very best wishes for 2024!