

Meerkats News Letter

Autumn 2011



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year and Meerkats class.

As usual we shall be using units from the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), to study history, geography and art etc. This will also link into some of our Literacy and Numeracy. Much more of the work will be the children researching a topic and finding things out for themselves. Some of this will be as homework and it is very important that this is completed and is in on time. Our first unit is called 'Leading the World' when we shall be looking at how decisions about our lives are made. This will start off with a visit from our local MP, Andrew Miller. Then the children will be organising their own election campaign to elect a class parliament. After half term we are using an Art based unit, 'How they see the world' which will involve plenty of practical work. For some of this work we will be joining up with Year 6 to work together on parts of the topic.

We don't have a residential in Year 5, instead we have two day trips planned. In the second half of the Autumn Term we will be going to visit an art gallery in Liverpool as part of our IPC topic 'How they see the world.' Then in the Spring Term we shall go to the Boat Museum in Ellesmere Port as part of a topic on Rivers. I will be sending out more details about the Autumn Term trip nearer half term.

Games will be on Tuesday with Mrs Smith and indoor PE will be on Friday. Please can you ensure your child has the correct kit with them and that it is clearly labelled. A tracksuit and trainers (not football boots) will be needed for games, and school T shirt and cycling shorts/ white shorts for indoor PE.

Homework will be given out on a Thursday for return the following Tuesday. This will vary from week to week but will usually consist of one piece of literacy and one piece of numeracy work. The children are responsible for ensuring they have their homework and that it is returned on time. Some of the homework will be given with a few days to complete it; other pieces will be given over longer periods of time. When the children are asked to do research, please can you encourage them to take notes, rather than copy chunks from books, or the

internet. More detailed guidance on presentation, marking etc will be given to the children in the next few days. Two of the areas you can help your children with, are to encourage them to read everyday and to help them learn and practice their tables.

Meerkat Classroom will be used by our new After School club this year. It is therefore very important that the children look after their own possessions and put them away in their drawer or bag at the end of the day. It is also especially important that jumpers and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name so that any lost property can be returned to them promptly.

Hopefully this will be another enjoyable and successful year for everyone!

Tina Watkins