

## **Rowan Class – Autumn Term Information**

Topic: Kings and Queens – Plots and Power (History: Discover)

Value for Life: Trust

**Welcome to Rowan Class! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the year ahead! Here is some useful information which you need to know:**

Important dates - please make sure you make a note of the following:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Meet the Teacher @ 9am

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Learning Café @ 9am

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Class Assembly @ 9.15am

*Please ensure you read the newsletter, which is sent out each Friday to keep up to date with any additional dates or changes.*

English – Our English work will be closely linked to our topic. The two core texts, which we will use as inspiration for most of our writing, are *Grimm's Fairy Tales* by The Brothers Grimm (Jack Zipes edition) and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. We will also explore many other texts as supplements to these. We will be writing warning stories inspired by those written by the Brothers Grimm, newspaper reports based on some of their tales, narrative descriptions based on *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and biographies of famous monarchs.

We will explore a wide variety of texts and genres in our Guided Reading sessions alongside this. I have attached a supplementary list of books at the end of this letter, which we will not necessarily explore in class, but are fantastic for sharing at home if you wish to explore our topic for this term deeper.

Maths – We will learn maths predominantly in year groups, using the Power Maths mastery approach. Year 4 will be studying place value (with 4 digit numbers); addition and subtraction; area; and multiplication and division. Year 5 will be studying place value (with numbers within 1 000 000); addition and subtraction; multiplication and division; and fractions.

Science – Our science topic for this term is 'Materials and Change'. We will look at changes in state (reversible change) and chemical (irreversible change) Children will explore how to separate individual materials from a mixture and how to identify different materials from their properties.

RE – The enquiry questions we will be exploring this term are 'Why is Christianity so diverse?' and 'How does belief impact and influence a Muslim's life?'

History – This term, we will look at the power struggle for the English throne and how to interpret the past using a range of primary and secondary sources. As part of this topic, we will focus on the Normans, their conquest of England and their legacy, the Wars of the Roses and Richard II (including the discovery of his skeleton in Leicester); The Tudor dynasty and the events that led up to the English civil war. We will analyse a range of historical sources.

Art & Design – We will be focusing on sketching and drawing as our main medium this term, developing our skills and working towards some portrait work focusing on the monarchs of Great Britain.

Computing – We will look at e-safety, especially in the context of posting images online. We will also consider 'fake' news and what you can trust on the internet. We will also look at multimedia and programming using Scratch.

French – We will continue to use the Rigolo scheme of work for French. Our topics this term will be 'Bon anniversaire!' and 'Quelle heure est-il?'

Music – Year 4 will receive instruction on the violin from the Norfolk Music Hub, and Year 5 will be learning the Ocarina with Miss Grant.

PSHE – We will continue to follow the PATHS (promoting alternative thinking strategies) approach to PSHE.

PE – Our PE topics will be Football, Netball and Handball. We will go outside in all weathers so make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Please also ensure that your child is wearing the correct clothing and is not wearing branded items / football kits, as letters will be sent home about this and these letters are recorded on your child's record.

Other important notices:

Nut free school – Please ensure that your child's lunch and healthy breaktime snack do not contain nuts. Please also be aware that due to an increase in food allergies in school, we will also be saying no to birthday treats.

Knowledge Organisers – There are knowledge organisers for all subjects on both Google Classroom and the school website. Please look at these as they will show in more detail what your child is learning about at school and can provide the starting point for

conversations with them about their learning. The children will complete retrieval quizzes about the content of these knowledge organisers on a regular basis.

Homework – Homework will be set on a Friday and will be expected to be handed in on a Wednesday, to allow time for the work to be marked before the books go back out again. Please ensure all homework tasks are completed. Your child will bring home a homework book to complete any written tasks, however copies of all tasks will be uploaded to Google Classroom for reference. In addition to a writing task, your child will receive weekly activities to complete on MyMaths and is expected to read daily. Your child should write a short summary of what they have read each day in their reading record and this will be checked at school. Please feel free to write comments in their reading records when you hear them read! Reading with a parent before bed is still incredibly valuable – please do not think your child is too old for this!

Times Tables – If your child is not yet confident with all times tables up to 12x12 (both multiplication and division facts) then Times Table Rockstars practice is important to address this as soon as possible. At the end of the year the year 4 pupils will complete the statutory Multiplication Tables Check, however this is nothing for them to worry about and they will do a lot of preparation for this in school. We will try to keep discussion around this to a minimum so please try not to add to their anxieties about this test at home!

Spellings – This year we will be using the Read, Write, Inc Spelling programme. However, we will also be setting the spelling patterns we are working on, on Spelling Frame, so children can continue to use the games on this site to practise these. There will no longer be a weekly spelling test but a selection of these words and their derivatives will be tested each week and these words will be tested at set points in the term. We strongly suggest that children complete a practise test on Spelling Frame each week to identify the words they find most difficult and then focus on learning these. The Read, Write, Inc. Spelling scheme encourages children to revisit and retain their spelling knowledge over a longer period of time.

Books to supplement the topic this term:

All of these books are fantastic resources to help develop your child's understanding of our Kings and Queens topic. Many of these are available from local libraries.

- The Queen's Fool – Ally Sherrick
- Diver's Daughter – Patrice Lawrence
- My Friend Walter – Michael Morpurgo
- The Secret Diary of Thomas Snoop, Tudor Boy Spy – Philip Ardagh & Jamie Littler
- The Queen's Token – Pamela Oldfield & James de la Rue
- The Tudors: Kings, Queens, Scribes and Ferrets – Marcia Williams
- What's So Special About Shakespeare? Michael Rosen & Sarah Nyler
- Eyewitness: Tudor – DK
- Street Child – Berlie Doherty
- Gaslight – Eloise Williams
- Twelve Minutes to Midnight – Christopher Edge
- The Bluest of Blues – Fiona Robinson
- Queen Victoria – V&A