



FALCONS CLASS NEWSLETTER

Why does Population change?

BELIEVE-**DISCOVER**-ASPIRE

SPRING 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. We are looking forward to our next term of learning with you. This half term, we will be thinking about the enquiry question: **Why does Population change?**

The children will learn all about why population changes – defining birth and death rates, and suggesting what may influence them. They will identify the most densely and sparsely populated areas of the world, define migration, discussing the push and pull factors, as well as describing the increase in global population over time. Finally, we will focus on how important hope and optimism are in our world, especially for those who are forced to flee their country as refugees.

The children will also be given some SAT Buster booklets to begin to prepare for their SAT tests later in the year.

A reminder that if at any time you have a concern or query relating to your child, please feel free to catch one of us before or after school, or make an appointment with the office to discuss the matter further.

Many thanks, Mr Abbott and Mrs Bailey

Reading Reminder:

Firstly, the children must bring in their reading book and reading record each day, so that they can be used as part of our daily reading.

Secondly, please listen to your child read as often as you can, encouraging them to experience a broad range of texts, such as newspapers, magazines and online information, as well as books. This will support the development of their writing and comprehension skills.

Residential Reminder:

Mill on the Brue – 3rd to 5th June.

Homework Reminder:

The maths, grammar, topic or reading comprehension activity will be **set on a Friday** and **must be handed in on the following Wednesday**. The expectation is that children spend no longer than 30 minutes completing it. Children also need to be reading regularly and learning their spellings.

Spellings Reminder:

Spellings will be sent home on a Friday and must be completed – by writing out three times – in their books please. This enables them to prepare for the weekly spelling test on the following Friday morning.

PE Update:

Our new P.E. days this half-term are **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Please make sure children have the following named kit in school for all PE lessons: t-shirt, dark shorts and trainers. Children should also have a jumper, and track suit bottoms in their PE kit in case the weather is cold.

A reminder that children need to remove all jewellery for PE. If they cannot remove their earrings, please provide microporous tape so they can be taped over during PE sessions. Also, any children with long enough hair need to have it tied up for PE sessions.

Equipment Reminder:

We kindly ask that pupils only bring in the following items:

- A water bottle (essential);
- Their lunchbox (unless having a cooked hot meal);
- A snack – fresh fruit and/or vegetables;
- Their reading book and reading record;
- Their coat (essential) – we like to ensure the children have some fresh air, even if it is a bit drizzly, so please ensure your child brings a substantial coat every day.

All other equipment, including pens and pencils, are provided so children are not required to bring a pencil case into school.

English:

In our English lessons this term, we will be initially focussing on poetic conventions such as metaphors, personification and onomatopoeia. We will look at the poem "The Jabberwocky" and how it uses these features as well as its use of portmanteau words.

Then we will be looking at the features of a non-chronological report before writing our own.

Finally, our Narrative focus will be finding tales, and the children will analyse and edit "Ben and the stolen diamond" before planning and writing their own similar story.

Music:

In our music lessons this term, the children will be working individually and in small groups on the Charanga unit "Creative Composition."

MFL:

In our MFL lessons this term, we will be following the Language Angels unit "Chez Moi" and the children will talk about their own home using the phrase "j'habite" which means "I live."

Humanities:

In our geography lessons this term, we will be focussing on population and completing the following tasks:

- defining birth and death rates - suggesting what may influence them;
- defining migration: discussing the push & pull factors;
- explaining why some people have no choice but to leave their homes;
- suggesting an action they can take to fight climate change.

PSHE: Jigsaw

In our PSHE lessons this term, we will be following the Jigsaw unit "Dreams and Goals." The children will recognise their learning strengths and set appropriate targets before working together to come up with ideas to make the world a better place.

R.E:

In our RE lessons this term, we will be focussing on the religion of Islam and the children will be exploring the question: "**What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?**"

SPAG:

In our SPAG sessions this term, we will be focussing on the following:

1. hyphens (to join two words);
2. colons (to introduce lists);
3. apostrophes (to create contracted words);
4. dashes (to add extra information);
5. semi colons (to link clauses).

Science:

In our science lessons this term, we will be learning about Electricity and the children will complete the following activities:

- comparing sources of electricity;
- drawing circuits using conventional symbols for wires, batteries, bulbs, buzzers and switches;
- comparing series and parallel circuits;
- creating circuits to test whether the brightness of a bulb is impacted by the number of components;
- recognising some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors;
- creating a burglary alarm using a simple circuit.

Maths:

In our maths lessons this term, we will use White Rose and a range of resources to aid number fluency, problem solving and reasoning. We will be focussing on:

1. Ratio.
2. Algebra.
3. Decimals.

A reminder to continue to encourage the children to learn their times tables and login to TTRockstars weekly.

P.E:

In our PE lessons this term, we will be focussing on **netball** and **dance**. Firstly, the children will develop a range of basketball skills (including passing, dribbling and shooting) that they can then implement in game situations. Secondly, in dance, they will work in pairs and small groups to create sequences linked to a carnival theme.

Art:

In our art lessons this term, we will be focusing on understanding narratives and descriptive language in art, exploring meanings behind paintings, and developing personal interpretations and abstract art pieces based on selected artists. Lessons explore creative expression, analysis, and evaluation skills in art.

The selected artists include:

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|------------------------|---------------|
| - David Hockney, | - Paula Rego, |
| - John Singer Sargent, | - Fiona Rae. |

Computing:

In our Computing lessons this term, we will be completing challenges on Code.org to enhance the children's problem-solving skills, help them understand new technology such as robotics, and aid creativity.