



Prep 7 Class Newsletter January/February 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Thank you for the very generous Christmas gifts - they were greatly appreciated after a very busy first term. I hope both you and the girls have had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for an exciting 2016 in Prep 7. This overview will give you an insight into the learning which will be taking place in January and February.

Communication

Our main spelling focus will be on:

- Singular and plural nouns
- Long vowels
- Oo,ew,ou,ue,ui
- Ine,ice,ise,ite,ive
- Ue,ew,iew,eau,eue
- Silent letters

Grammar

- Words and their meanings - word origins, acronyms, idioms
- Punctuation: colons, semicolons, and ellipses

Reading Comprehension

- We will begin to study the novel 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. This novel is set in the second half of the 19th century and tells the story of Jim Jarvis, a real life character whose plight inspired Dr. Barnardo to set up children's homes. We will complete various novel based activities linked to the story.

The Big Write

Recount

- A diary entry for a day onboard the Titanic.
- A diary for a recount of the last day/hours onboard the Titanic

Non-chronological Report

- A report on the building of the Titanic

Persuasion

- Who was to blame for the sinking of the Titanic?

Using Mathematics

Our Numeracy work will focus on revision and consolidation of the following topics:

Angles

- To consolidate our understanding of acute, obtuse and reflex angles.
- To use a protractor to measure internal and external angles.
- To calculate missing angles.
- To make sensible estimates about angle sizes.

Symmetry

- To consolidate our understanding of rotational symmetry
- To learn how to reflect shapes within 4 quadrants.

2D Shape

- To learn about congruence and tessellation in 2D shapes.

Fractions

- To be able to add, order and compare fractions.
- To identify and use mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Our Maths homework will reflect our learning in class.

The World Around Us

Topic -Titanic

History

- The history of Harland and Wolff and White Star Line and the development of the great ocean liners.
- The different roles of the shipyard workers.
- The different class systems onboard the Titanic.
- How light and sound were used to communicate safety and danger on board the Titanic (Morse Code and signalling flags).
- A timeline of the events leading up to the sinking.
- On Thursday 14th January we will be visiting the new Titanic Centre.

The Arts

- Music with Mrs Murray - In Music we will be exploring music and moods and creating sound sequences for our Titanic projects. We will be exploring the concept of ostinato through song accompaniments.
- Art with Mrs Herriot - In Art we will be creating Titanic maritime posters using Pointillism, exploring the fashion of the Titanic era and creating Morse code flags.
- Drama with Mrs Herriot - In Drama we will be starting the audition and rehearsal process for our whole school production.

PE with Mrs Henderson

Cross Country Running

- The girls will develop cross country and endurance running to understand pacing at various distances and on varying terrains. Girls will complete a bleep test.

Gymnastics

- Development of gymnastic skills to perform increasingly refined movements and agilities on floor and large apparatus. Development of vaulting techniques.

Swimming

- Gala race selection and preparation. Revision of 'starts' and 'finishes' in 25m sprints. Relay preparation.

French with Mrs Burnett

New topic-Que la fete commence

- Months of the year
- Birthday dates learn how to say the date and date of your birthday
- Festivals and Celebrations
- Watch and understand a video of a French festival
- Discuss similar festivals in own country

<u>Spanish with Senorita Gomez</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming classroom objects and people found in a school • Using 'there is/are/isn't/aren't' (<i>Hay/No hay</i>) • Learning the verb 'to have' (<i>Tener</i>) • Describing where things are • Learning about Carnival and creating a mask
<u>RE with Mrs Glover</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This half-term we will have the opportunity to learn that John the Baptist came as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. We will also investigate the events surrounding the temptations of Jesus.
<u>PDMU with Miss Hamilton</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand and value elements which contribute to a safe and healthy lifestyle. • Benefits of a healthy lifestyle including physical activity, healthy eating, rest and hygiene. <p>Know about the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and illegal substances.</p>
<u>Latin with Mrs Stevenson</u>
<p>Prep 7 will avail of a 30 minute Latin lesson with Mrs Stevenson every week. This will be the first time the pupils have been taught Latin and we hope this trial is successful and useful to the girls.</p>
<u>Using ICT</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be using 'Scratch' to explore programming and we will use this to create a Titanic story.

Dates for your diary...

Whole School Exceptional Closure - Friday 8th January 2016

Prep Open Day - Saturday 16th January, 10am - 12 noon

VCB Senior School Open Day - Saturday 9th January

Parent Forum - Wednesday 27th January at 6pm, in P7 classroom

Titanic Centre Visit - Thursday 14th January

Transfer Results - Saturday 30th January

Transfer Interviews - Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd February

Half-term break - Monday 15th - Friday 19th February (inclusive)

School re-opens Monday 22nd February

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs Herriot