

# Cougars' Class

## Spring Newsletter

**Welcome back to school!** I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! A huge thank you for your kindness and generosity with Christmas gifts, it really is very kind of you. As we move into the Spring term, I am hopeful that the Cougars will keep their positive attitudes and continue to enjoy school. They have tackled everything with fantastic enthusiasm and we really are so proud of the progress they have made. Although there does seem to be a heavy focus on SATs in Year 6, my aim as a teacher is to make sure that school is still fun and we are able to enjoy all areas of the curriculum – particularly the creative subjects! We are always looking for helping hands in class, please do let me know if you can offer any.

### Topic

Our topic this half term is 'European and Local Study'. The main subject focus will be Geography, Music and Art. We will start by learning about rivers and the water cycle, before taking a walk to the River Stour to identify the features we have learnt. The rivers will then take us over to Europe where we will focus on several different countries, looking at how the rivers and canals were used for trade, the human and physical geography of the country and the modern day culture.

Music will have a classical music focus, learning about the famous European composers and the pieces of music they are best known for. The children will be using these pieces to compose and perform their own, as well as writing their own national anthem for Kedington.

### Homework

I hope you would agree that the use of the CGP books for homework have been highly successful. These will continue to be used this half term, with more books being introduced for reading, spelling and other areas of Maths. The books are designed to support your child's learning of the National Curriculum and are a great resource to support parents also.

### Reminders

PE lessons will be on a **Tuesday 1pm until 2pm** and **Wednesday 9am until 10am**. Please could your child make sure their PE kit is in school on these days. As the cold weather will continue, your child will need to have tracksuit bottoms and a warm top to wear over their black shorts and white T-Shirt as lessons will continue to be outside.

### Maths

Each school day starts with a 'Problem of the Day', a Maths based reasoning problem to help stretch their brains first thing in the morning! Maths lessons also start with a 'Remember It Now' session, where children have to answer 4 or 5 arithmetic questions in 3 minutes, followed by 'Apply It Now', where children answer a question from a previous SATs paper. These short burst activities are really helping the children with their learning as we are constantly going back to topics already covered.

### Reading

The Cougars are a class who are extremely passionate about reading. I have been very proud of how much love they have shown for discovering new stories to enjoy. If your child finds it difficult to choose a book from the library, or they cannot find the next book in the series, I am more than happy for them to read a book from home or the local library. Many of these books are also on the Accelerated Reader system for your child to take a quiz.

### Helping At Home

Your encouragement and support with the homework was fantastic during the Autumn term. The children have reported back that they find the instant marking and feedback extremely helpful, so I must say a big thank you. As we begin the Spring term, I am hopeful that the children remain positive and up-beat about their learning, particularly around SATs – although SATs is a banned word in the classroom, we prefer to call them OWLs like in Harry Potter! In terms of helping at home, we have made a brilliant start to the year and I am hopeful that this will continue. If you do have any questions, please do message me or arrange a meeting.