

Welcome Back – Pine Tree Class

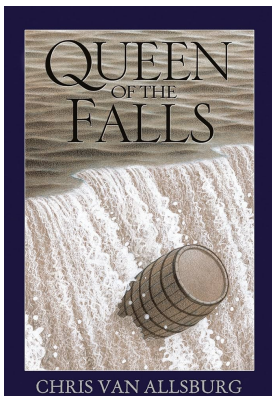
Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are ready for an exciting year ahead. To begin our school year, the whole school transition topic will be 'Together we Learn and Grow'.



Maths and English

Our Maths topics for this autumn term will focus heavily on number, place value and the four written calculations and it is imperative that children are supplementing this work with basic skills practise at home. Please encourage the children to use their log in for Times Table Rockstars regularly at home to ensure they know all the multiplication and division facts accurately and rapidly as this knowledge and recall will be hugely beneficial this year.



We will continue to develop our writing skills through the study of various texts this term, first with Chris Van Allsburg's beautifully illustrated and thought-provoking book called 'Queen of the Falls'. Then we will be looking at The Lost Happy Endings by Carol Ann Duffy. We will analyse the author's use of language and the impact it has upon the reader and then use them to stimulate a variety of different forms of writing. We will explore using a variety of sentence structures, thoughtful well-chosen vocabulary and a wide range of punctuation and grammar. We will be completing daily whole class reading sessions to develop the children's reading stamina, pace, understanding of vocabulary and comprehension skills alongside individual reading sessions where each child will be heard to read by an

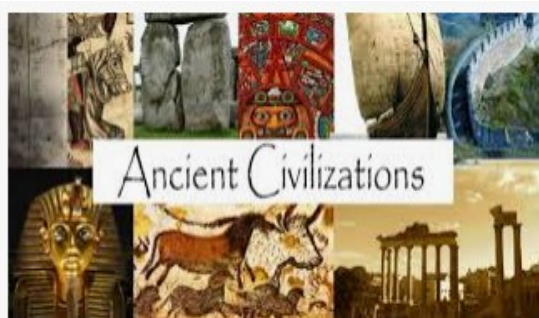
adult weekly. Alongside everything we do in school, it is incredibly important that children are reading a variety of texts both fiction and non-fiction regularly at home and recording their comments in the planners. The planners need to be in school daily and to be signed at by an adult regularly. Finally, the children will need to focus on using spelling strategies and rules consistently to ensure they spell a variety of common and uncommon words accurately. They



need to be practising their spellings regularly at home. Please see the spelling strategies document to support your child learning their weekly word lists at home.



The Wider Curriculum

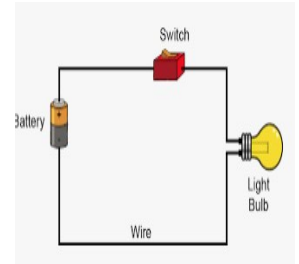


This year we will be studying both history and geography throughout the year to ensure we cover all curriculum objectives before the children leave us for High School. Our History enquiry question is 'What can we learn from Ancient Civilisations? During this topic, the children will focus on the early ancient civilisations; Ancient Sumer, Ancient Mayans, Ancient, Indus Valley and Shang Dynasty. They will learn about significant events from the time and order these events chronologically on a timeline of early world history.

Our Geography enquiry question 'Is Warrington a good place to settle? In this topic, the children will study why the location, transport links, proximity to cities, trade and industry all make Warrington a good place to live. Through use of digital and paper maps, children will investigate land use in different sized settlements and the ways in which settlements are linked together. They will also look at how Warrington has changed over time.



In our weekly Science sessions, we have a Physics focus to begin with and will be learning all about Electricity Children begin with revision of simple circuits with lots of hands on experience with symbols, diagrams and incomplete circuits. Children will then compare series and parallel circuits and face some difficult challenges! Next, we have some biology! The children will then explore the structure of the heart and lungs; looking at the double circulation system and all about blood! They will then investigate why exercise is good for us and what can harm the heart and lungs. The children will be encouraged to work and think like scientists and explore these natural phenomena using their research skills, asking relevant questions to investigate.



Homework

As last year, your children's homework will be completed in separate English and Maths Homework Books – alongside spelling and reading work. Your children's homework will be set on Fridays and they will be expected to work through this independently – returning it to school by the following Friday. These homework books should be treated as any other work book in school and work should be completed to the highest possible standard.

PE

Sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays and Fridays where we will complete our outdoor and indoor sessions respectively. Topics this term are rugby and Health & Fitness circuits. Please ensure the children are in the correct PE kits for these days: they need to wear a house coloured t-shirt and black leggings/joggers with trainers. Long hair needs to be tied back and earrings removed or covered.



We hope that you have found the information in this letter useful, but for any other updates or information – please remember to follow our class web page and twitter feed @pinetreeclass If you wish to contact us at any time, we are available through the school office or at the end of the day most afternoons. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead, and know that with your continued support, it will be a great one!

Kind Regards,

Mr Ellis