



Wednesday 4th November 2020

Dear Year 3 Parents and Carers,

The children have settled in fantastically well to life at Connaught Junior School and we can all be incredibly proud of them for making such a wonderful start under difficult circumstances. Autumn 2 is an extremely exciting term as we prepare for our Christmas production which, this year, will be slightly different in that it will be a filmed performance. This is a fantastic chance for the children to show off their talents to the rest of the school, and to you! This week we will be holding auditions, before allocating roles and beginning rehearsals. Parts are allocated based on the children's preferences and how they performed in the audition. There will be a range of parts, from main speaking parts to acting only, and we are able to adapt the script and add extra speaking parts so that everyone can get a part that they are happy with. Once parts have been allocated, please support your child to learn their lines and songs. We are quite restricted in how we can rehearse our songs in school so any singing practice at home, even just learning the lines, will be greatly appreciated.

It was a pleasure to speak to you all at our virtual Parents' Evening before half term and to hear so many positive comments about the school and how well the children have settled in. We could not be more proud of how well this cohort of children has taken to life at Connaught and hope that this continues throughout the year ahead. To capture your feedback in a more formal way, we have sent out an online transition questionnaire which we would like you to complete. This is a vital way for us to hear your thoughts on the transition between infant school and junior school and helps us to improve the process year on year. The questionnaire can be found at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zK6JJGonyE-oK-IAOtxDgaP47YZLwvpEvPFx3G9qLExUN0ZDWENPTFc3UVZLTVFCTjIQM0pWSVpPRI4u>

This is our second curriculum letter which, as you know, comes out every half term accompanied by a theme overview. This is designed to give you some information regarding the key themes we will be covering and some more detail on this term's topic.

Curriculum

Our Geography topic this term is "Our Place in Europe". This week, children took part in a launch day to kick start their learning and engage them in the upcoming topic. This is an exciting topic for the children as we get to explore the geography of Britain and Europe. As part of our geography learning we will be locating and naming the **continents and the main countries and capital cities of Europe**, locating and naming the **countries of the British Isles, with their capital cities**, identifying the **longest rivers, largest deserts, and highest mountains** of the world and **comparing a region of the UK with a region in Europe**.

English

In English, we will be writing **letters of complaint** based upon the fun and engaging children's story 'The Day The Crayons Quit'. Later in the term we will create **Information Texts** as we compare how Christmas is celebrated across Europe, with children learning and using all of the features of writing for a non-fiction audience. Our children have

responded very well to the spelling homework and we are pleased with how they are doing each week in the test. At school we will be working hard to ensure that the rules and words learnt in previous weeks do not get forgotten but are retained in their long-term memory so that they can then use these words accurately in their writing. Please also be aware of the handwritten list of words at the back of your child's diary, containing words that your child has spelt incorrectly in their written work. We will be giving time throughout the school week to practise these words but we would also appreciate any time spent going over these as part of your child's spelling homework practise.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the children will be finishing off our unit on **Addition and Subtraction** by learning to subtract large numbers, first using counters and dienes, before learning the formal method of column subtraction. We will then begin our unit on **Multiplication and Division** where we will be using sharing and grouping to develop a firm understanding of exactly what it means to multiply and divide numbers. With times tables, we will be moving on to learn the **5 times table**. Similarly to the 2s, it is important that our children are confident in quickly recalling both the multiplication and division facts in any order. We have been very pleased with how our children have taken to using Times Table Rock Stars and we hope that they continue to use this to practise their times tables at least 5 times a week.

PSHE

In PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) this term we will be Celebrating Differences. We will be talking about different types of families and recognising that although they are all different, families are important. We will also be learning about disagreements and conflicts that might happen in family and friendship groups and the ways we can help to solve them. Lastly, we will be recognising that some words can be used in hurtful ways and what the consequences of this might be.

PE

As you know, PE is timetabled for Thursdays and Fridays. As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has suitable outdoor footwear and a Connaught tracksuit. We will be taking the children outside whenever possible and sometimes out onto the field. Children often like to wear their PE shorts underneath their tracksuit so that they can remove their tracksuit bottoms when inside. Again, please name all items as things do get lost during the school day. It might also be worth putting a spare pair of socks in your child's bag in case their own get wet.

And finally...

We are always outside at the end of the day and available should you wish to speak to us. If you would like more time, a phone appointment can be arranged. Please remember that the class email accounts are regularly monitored and this is often the best way to pass on quick notes or to ask questions. We always aim to foster positive relationships with our parents so if you have a question about anything, approaching us directly is the best way forward to ensure that you get the most accurate information possible.

Kind regards,

Mr Stevens Miss Parkinson Mrs Meredith Mrs Evans Mrs Carroll