



# Autumn 2

## Starlings' Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents,

It is lovely to welcome you all back after the half term break. We are looking forward to starting a new half term which we predict will be full of lots of new learning and exciting new units.

### History:

#### Weavers at Work

In History this term, we are learning about 'Weavers at Work' and the local history relating to the cotton mills of Westhoughton, and the surrounding area. We will learn about the working conditions of local people and children in particular, whilst working in the terrible conditions of some of these factories. We will continue then to find out more about significant people during the Victorian era and particular the Industrial Revolution of Britain, making comparisons between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and how we live today.

### Design Technology:

#### Structures

We are learning about different structures in DT. We will be designing and making a bridge that is capable of carrying a toy train. We will be experimenting with different joining methods and what materials are sturdy and strong enough to fit the design brief.

### Science: Material Properties - Rocks

We will learn whether a rock is naturally occurring or man-made. The three types of naturally occurring rocks will be explored: igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic. We will make careful observations of the rocks and complete tests to discover which rocks are permeable, impermeable, hard, soft, dense or durable. We will also complete the acid test to see if a rock contains calcium carbonate. Exploring sedimentary rocks further, we will learn how fossils are created and discovered.

### PE:

#### PE days – Monday and Thursday.

Please ensure your child comes into school in the appropriate PE kit and have a bottle of water in school.



### RE:

#### What do Hindus believe that God is like?

We will learn about the supreme God, Brahman, and how he is represented by many Gods. We will explore the Diwali story and learn about how Hindus worship at home.



### PSHE:

#### Relationships

This half term we will continue our learning about relationships and how to treat each other with kindness and compassion both online and offline.

### French:

#### Salutations

We will be continuing our learning about formal and informal greetings in French.

### Computing: Digital Citizenship

This half term we will continue with our learning of 'Digital Citizenship'. We will explore Microsoft Word and master the tools of copy and paste, basic shortcuts and inserting text. We will use Microsoft Excel to study 'databases' – using tools such as charts and graphs, addition and subtraction tools and master data inputting. We will also explore creating animation through Purple Mash and programmes such as '2animate'.



### Music:

#### Glockenspiel Stage 2

In Music we are learning how to read and play new notation on glockenspiels. We will then apply our new knowledge of notation in different songs.



Please ensure your child is always fully prepared for the school day with their school bag, PE kit, reading record & reading book, homework, and anything else they may have been asked to bring in.



### Home learning:

- Read at home for 15-20 minutes every day
- Practice spellings
- Learn times tables
- Create one example from the half termly project list



### Home reading: **Please ensure that your child reads 5 times a week**

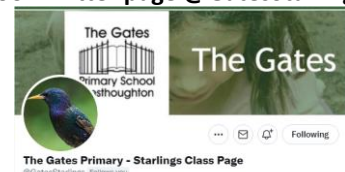
#### Reading Challenge

5 x= Green  
2/3/4= Yellow  
0/1= Red

If your child achieves green for the week, they will be entered into a special prize draw!

Only books that children take home from school will go towards the reading challenge – either the home reader or a book from the 100 Book Challenge. This will ensure that your child is reading books appropriate for their ability.

### Our School Twitter page @GatesStarlings



We have a new school twitter page which we update regularly. You can see all the exciting things we have been getting up to in school and how hard the children are all working. Please give us a follow to keep updated!