



St Minver School

Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 6th September 2024

Greenaway Class

A warm welcome to Greenaway Class! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and the children are looking forward to starting their first term in Greenaway Class. I have had such an enjoyable few days getting to know your lovely children and can't believe how well they have settled into their new routines so far. I imagine they will all be ready for bedtime tonight! I'm really excited to be their class teacher this year and can't wait to get started on our learning journey together.

'What a Wonderful World' is the title of our first topic and will be the focus for our geography and science work this term. We begin our topic by taking a closer look at our local area and thinking about what makes it a special place to live. We will learn about the seven continents of the world and the oceans and seas that surround them in relation to our own locality. We will use various maps to locate exactly where in the world St Minver School is and compare this to a contrasting location in the UK, London. We will use aerial photographs and video footage to compare the human and physical features of the two locations and discover the fascinating landmarks in our capital city.

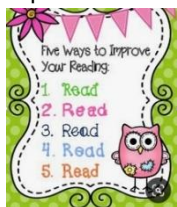


During our science topic we will learn about living things and their habitats. We will investigate different plants and animals that can be found in various microhabitats on our school grounds and think about how animals are suited to their habitat.

Reading and Writing



This half term we begin our story time sessions by listening to 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson before listening to a range of lovely picture books all about London to support our Geography work. We will spend the first four weeks of our writing unit focusing on grammar and sentence structure so that we can then apply the skills taught during these sessions to write a non-chronological report all about 'Marvellous Minibeasts' linked to our science work.



Reading at home Please try to encourage your child to read every day at home if they can. We welcome the positive comments you make in their reading record and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child read. It really does make such a difference to their progress! It would be lovely to have some help with reading this year. Please let me know if this is something you might be able to help us with and are able to spare a morning or afternoon each week to listen to the children read.

The children are looking forward to working their way to the top of our reading tree where a special reward is waiting for them from 'Twit Twoo' our class mascot. Each week that your child reads four or more times at home (which includes weekends too) they move one branch closer to the top.

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St Minver School, Rock Road, St Minver, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6QD

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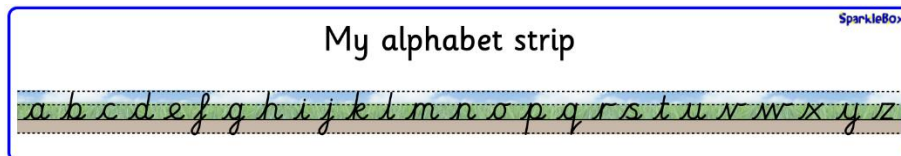


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Handwriting

The children were very excited to find out yesterday that we will be learning to join our writing in Greenaway Class. First, we begin by learning to form our letters with lead ins which makes it easier for us when we come to join our letters together. Once we are able to form our letters confidently using lead ins, we will be awarded our joining licence and away we go!



Maths

In maths we begin the term by working on our place value unit. This is an essential foundation skill that the rest of the year's maths builds upon before moving onto addition and subtraction and exploring the relationship between these two operations.

This term the children will take part in a daily 15-minute maths session called 'Snappy Maths'. During this session the children will learn a range of strategies to help them recall their addition and subtraction facts within 10 and beyond. Securing fluency in this area will enable the children to make connections in their learning and help them to free up their working memory so that they can reason, and problem solve about their maths when faced with more complex problems to solve.

Homework

Each week the children will be given spellings and maths homework. This will be sent home on a Monday and collected on a Friday. Please try to practise spellings daily if possible—little and often is the best way to learn them. Spellings will be tested each Friday morning with a little quiz. Your child will also bring home a piece of maths homework which is designed to reinforce the learning that has taken place in class.

Weekly Routines

Monday – Homework and spellings are handed out. PE with Mrs Cudmore.

Tuesday – Visit to the library to choose a new book. Please make sure your child's library book is in their bookbag on this day so that they are able to change it for a new book if they wish to.

Wednesday – Music with Mrs Davis and PE with Mr Rickard.

Thursday – New 'phonic' book sent home for those children on the Little Wandle Reading Scheme. Our first Jigsaw unit is entitled 'Being Me in My World' and will take place on alternate Thursday afternoons alongside our RE unit 'Who is Muslim and how do they live?'.

Friday – Spelling quiz, homework folders to be returned and active mile.

Please remember to send your child's PE kit into school in a named carrier bag ready for their PE lessons on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Don't forget that the children may come to school on a Friday wearing their trainers and jogging bottoms ready for our active mile in the afternoon. Please make sure that your child has a named water bottle which can be kept on their desk.

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Termly Challenge

Each term we would like the children to contribute towards our class topic. To support our science unit this term on 'Living things and their habitats' we would like the children to design a habitat in a shoe box. First get a shoebox. Next choose a habitat. Here are some ideas: forest, sea, polar, rainforest, desert. Then decorate the inside of your shoebox to look like your habitat e.g. a forest habitat might have trees and leaves. After this add 3d animals (models or pictures either printed or drawn). There are lots of ideas online, just type habitat shoebox into google. Please bring into class on (or before) Tuesday 5th November.



Expectations in Greenaway Class

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We try to uphold our school motto 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong' in all that we do. We put emphasis on the presentation of the children's work and encourage and teach independence and organisational skills. Each half term the children will choose from a range of classroom jobs that they would like to be responsible for so that by the end of Year 2 they will have had experience of a range of roles within the classroom.

Class Rewards

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. Each day a child will be selected to be the star of the day and will get to spend the following day looking after our class mascot 'Twit-Twoo'. They will also receive a sticker for their sticker chart.

Teacher / Parent Meetings

Our teacher / parent meetings will take place on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th October. I hope that you can make one of these dates and look forward to spending some time with you to discuss how your child has settled into Greenaway Class. Please just let me know if either of these dates are not suitable and we can arrange another time to meet. Appointments will be available to book on Arbor from the 30th September. If you have any further questions or queries, no matter how big or small, then please don't hesitate to ask. I feel very lucky to be teaching your children this year!

With very best wishes,

Louisa Cudmore

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