



COLNEY HEATH SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year ! I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, and are ready for the term ahead.

This term our topic will be "Commotion in the Ocean". This is based upon a variety of ideas that the children had regarding an interest in the sea and marine life. We will be learning about geographical and local environmental issues.

Our Literacy focus before half term will involve learning about balanced arguments. As part of this, and relating to our topic, we will be taking an interest in the local issue regarding the proposed development of the New Barnfield Incinerator. We will be following the consultation process, looking at both sides of the argument involved in this issue. We will also be using maps and other sources of information to create plans. Other Literacy units this term will develop the theme of the marine environment through poetry, leaflet writing and the works of Michael Morpurgo.

As well as the geographical skills we will be developing we will also be making submarines ! These will be created having used computer simulations to trial ideas, before we create our own vessels. **Please send in any 2 litre soft drink bottles and shoe boxes that you may have at home to help with our designs.** We already have plans to test them out.....there could be some damp feet or a visit to the swimming pool ! Our art work will focus on the use of textiles in creating marine images. We will also be creating music based on seascapes.

This term is a relatively short one, but promises to be very busy! In Mr Rose's pre-Christmas blog he mentioned the importance of attendance. Last term, we had only 5 members of the class with 100% attendance. Our average attendance was 94%, which sounds impressive, but does mean that we still need to improve. During this term, we will sometimes be working in smaller groups in order to help everyone get the very best from their learning. It is really important attendance is as close to 100% to ensure that your child achieves the best they can !

This term also brings news of secondary school transfers. Later in the term we will be considering how we help the children with their preparation for a new school, with transition projects in class. Working independently with homework or taking responsibility for organising their equipment for school, really does help. Encourage your child to try homework on their own, if it is really too tricky for them to understand on their own or after a brief input from you, please let me know. If homework returns to school totally correct, I assume your child has managed this independently, whereas they may need more support in school to consolidate ideas. Time is available most lunchtimes for children to complete homework, if they have not finished it within a reasonable time at home. This is similar to the facility that many secondary schools offer, and is a good habit for the children to get into, if they feel they have not completed something at home. I am also available to explain homework at these times to anyone who asks for help.

This week, your child will be bringing home a booklet to show the way they do basic calculations in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This is designed to help parents see the methods used in school, and personally by your child, to calculate answers. We will be working particularly on division during this term.

Please come and see me if there is anything you wish to discuss at any time. I am looking forward to a truly Olympic year !

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Clark

