



Amethyst Class

Autumn Term Newsletter 2020



It has been so lovely to have been welcomed so warmly by the children, staff and parents during my first few days at Milldene. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and working with them and you, their parents, this year.

Although our school routine and our classroom look a little different, the children have already demonstrated great resilience and adaptability. I am very impressed!

I am joined this year by the lovely Mrs Warrick and she will be working in Amethyst class every morning and will look after the class for me on a Thursday afternoon whilst I am on PPA.

Responsibilities!

I believe in teaching children independence. The children will be responsible for bringing into school, each day, their coat, Reading Record and book, a drink and their lunch. The children do not need to bring anything else into school as everything else will be provided for them. The children may bring in a **small** bag if they wish. All of the children will have a weekly class job to promote independence skills and work towards earning team points, Green time and being the day's Secret Star. The children have their own class board, in the cloakroom, so they know what groups they are in, where they are sitting and what their job is. Every Friday, we will have a class celebration assembly to celebrate their successes.

Reading

The children will soon be assessed so they can use the school's Accelerated Reading programme. The assessment will give us the level of book your child should be on and there will be online quizzes for the children to complete, in school, once they have read their books. It is exceptionally important that the children are supported with their reading at home and are regularly heard and quizzed by an adult. Mrs Warrick and I will also hear the children read in school whenever possible.

Homework

Homework will be explained and given to the children on a Friday and should be completed by the following Thursday. Information about the homework will be put in their reading records weekly for you and your child to refer to. Weekly spellings need to be learnt for a spelling test on Friday, maths or another piece of topic related work and reading. Any additional times table practice completed, even if it is just 10 minutes a day on Times Table Rockstars, will be a bonus.

Guided Reading

During guided reading sessions, the children will be reading a sharing poem about space, which links to our first English topic. We are also going to be reading The Great Kaypok Tree and sharing a class text.

English

Our first pieces of writing will be inspired by a short film called La Luna. The children will be discussing the film, describing characters and settings as well as writing stories. After, the children will read The Great Kaypok Tree and this will be their inspiration for persuasive writing, information booklets and story writing. After October half term we will be reading and writing about the Iron Man as part of our Mighty metals Topic.

Spellings

The children will learn throughout the year statutory year 3 spellings. As a school we follow No No-nonsense Spelling where the children will be taught a weekly spelling rule and then given a chance to apply it in a variety of ways. Every Friday the children will be tested on their spellings and then taught the new spelling rule for the next week.

Maths

This term will all be about securing number and place value skills in a variety of different ways. Following White Rose, the children will answer a range of fluency and reasoning questions, solve problems and work independently and collaboratively. Furthermore, they will also practise their skills in addition and subtraction. We are also going to have daily afternoon, maths workout sessions so that the children can work on learning their times tables as well as revisiting key skills.

Science

Light is our science topic for the first part of the Autumn term and the children will learn about where light comes from, why we need it and shadows. After half term the children will learn all about different metals and magnets, eventually making their own magnetic game.

Topic

Our first topic is geography based and the children will be learning about different rivers. We are going to look at different rivers across the world, their features and we will even try to make our own river! The children will focus on the river Thames and the Amazon river and explore these in more detail. Our artwork will be inspired by English artist John

Dyer and Amazonian artist Nixiwaka Yawanawá and their Spirit of the Rainforest exhibition in the Eden Project. After October half term the topic is science based and the children will learn about different metals and their properties. We are going to study Sculptor Ai Weiwei and they will be able to make their own magnetic game before Christmas.

PE

The children's PE sessions will be Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning for this first half term. Every Wednesday afternoon the children will learn how to play hockey and every Thursday morning they will be in Forest School. The children must come to school in their PE kits on these two days. As the weather can be unpredictable and the children will be outside wherever possible, it is very important that they are wearing a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and a jumper.

Jewellery must not be worn for PE and long hair should be tied up.

After half term, the Thursday morning PE session will change, and you will be updated before October half term to confirm the new day.

RE

Each term the children will learn about a different faith. This term the children will be learning about Buddhism and Christianity.

PSHE

Especially given the current situation, the children's social and emotional wellbeing is paramount. We have already started our PSHE lessons by discussing our feelings and change. We have a class worry bear that the children have named Jacob and they are free to use him to share their worries during the day. The worry bear will be checked daily by a class adult. Amethyst class also have a feelings display so they can acknowledge how they and their classmates feel.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can leave a telephone message and I will return your call as soon as I can, or you can email admin and they will forward your email to me. You can also leave a brief message in your child's Reading Record which either myself or Mrs Warrick will respond to.

I look forward to working with you and your son or daughter this year.

Mrs Laban.