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Dear Parents

Bigbury Class Information Letter

Welcome to Holbeton's newest class, Bigbury Class! Mr Armley-Jones is Bigbury's teacher and is very excited to be able to tell you about this term and the many exciting things we will learn in school.

Topic

Our topic this term is Maafa. In the Maafa project, we will learn about Africa today and the ancient kingdoms that thrived on the continent for thousands of years. We will learn about the origins of the transatlantic slave trade in the 15th century and Britain's involvement from the time of Elizabeth I, when John Hawkins became the first British slave trader. Year 5/6 will understand the structure of the transatlantic slave trade and the consequences of enslavement for enslaved people. We will also discover how the people of Britain benefited from the money and goods produced by the slave trade. We will learn about the causes and consequences of the abolition of slavery in the 19th century, the worldwide African diaspora and the European colonisation in Africa. We will explore the lives and actions of black people in 20th century Britain. We will understand how the Race Relations Act of 1965 became the first piece of British legislation to tackle racial discrimination and know that the Equality Act 2010 provides people with protection against racism and other forms of discrimination, today. Bigbury class will also explore the lives of black people who have made significant contributions to Britain and will celebrate black culture in Britain today.

Maths

Just like the start of every year, we're making sure the children have a firm understanding of place value and the four calculations. You can find our lessons on Showbie if you'd like to support at home.

English

This term, we will be exploring a few different genres of writing. We'll be taking inspiration from the book (and short film) Varmints as well as Neil Gaiman's The Graveyard book for our narrative writing. For non-fiction, we'll explore the positives and negatives of screen use and write a balanced argument. We'll also dip our toe into performance poetry – being inspired by the likes of John Hegley, Michael Rosen, and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Reading

At the start of the year, the children have completed an assessment to determine their reading age and ZPD (the level of book that should provide a challenge). These have been shared with the children and they've chosen an appropriate book. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.



A partner school in the Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST)
Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AJ



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Homework

Across the school, homework will change slightly this term going forwards. You will receive a separate letter about MyMaths. This is a weekly structured homework programme which can be attempted on any online device. It provides instant feedback and marks the work once completed. The maths homework will be directly linked to what they have learnt that week in maths. Please do consider supporting your child each week as it will really aid their learning and understanding.

The topic home learning sheet will remain as well which allows children to engage further with their topic at home. We are trying to send home less paper and as a result, the homework sheet will be posted on Showbie. There is a folder called 'UKS2 Topics plus more' where the homework can be accessed. The homework tasks can be completed on the Showbie platform using the forms or you can produce the work on paper or any other form and send it in to be celebrated. Don't be afraid to post videos and photos on the platform – we have seen some incredible efforts over the year! As for spellings, we're going to continue with Spelling Shed as it was very successful last year.

All of the children in Bigbury Class know how to log in to Showbie. However, should selective amnesia strike at home:

To login to Showbie, Google Showbie login and sign in. The username is your child's full name without any capitals or spaces, so Emily Smith would be emilysmith. For our new children the password is defaulted to holbeton but this can be changed after you first login.

General Class Structure

As you know, our Forest School session takes place on a Monday afternoon (please make sure they arrive in outdoor clothes for the day ahead) and PE is taught on a Friday afternoon (again arrive for the day in PE clothes). Children will be taught in a variety of ways and we will use our outdoor space to provide enriched learning opportunities. We will encourage our children to take part in daily physical activity which will either take form of the daily mile or moving and shaking or yoga. The daily mile will involve the children heading up to the newly built jog track (it is due to be completed very soon!) where they can walk, jog or run around the track to keep themselves active.

As always, should you have any further questions, please catch me outside or send an email to admin@holbeton.devon.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mr Stuart Armley-Jones

Bigbury Class Teacher



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