



Welcome to Phoenix class!

Spring Term One

Welcome back!

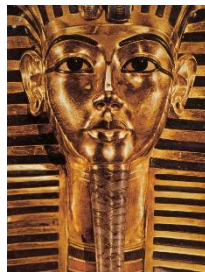
We hope you have had a brilliant Christmas holiday. We are super excited to begin this new year and new term with Phoenix and get back into our school routine!

However, there will be some changes in regard to staffing. From the 3rd of February, I will be officially on Maternity leave, meaning the class will be taught by a different member of staff. Interviews to appoint are happening very soon, so more details will follow. This will be for the rest of the children's time in Phoenix. I have taught most of your children for several years now and will really miss them! But I know they will continue to be amazing and be well looked after.

On a Tuesday afternoon, Mrs Osborne will be covering my PPA time, and I will not be in school on a Thursday. The class will be taught by Mrs Osborne every Thursday alongside Miss Burns and Miss Collier. Please message the appropriate staff if needed, so that urgent messages are picked up.

Topic

This term (and next!) in Phoenix class we are exploring a new topic entitled 'Ancient Egyptians'. The topic includes finding out about their belief system, life and death, civilisation and structures and the decline in power.



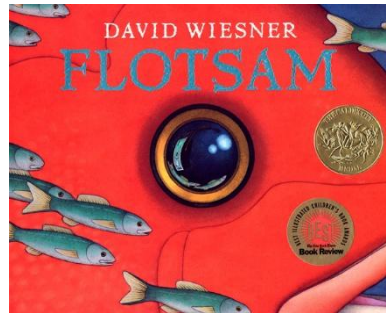
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Reading and Literacy

We always try to encourage a love of reading as much as possible within school. One way we do this is through text-based writing, which means that we have a book we read together and use in our literacy lessons. To start the term off, we will be looking at 'Flotsam' by David Wiesner which is a wordless picture book.



Within literacy, we will be focusing on poetry, letter writing, newspaper reports, biographies, and non-chronological reports.

Please ensure that your child is reading at home **every** night, as well as recording their reading in their reading records. Children will take AR tests throughout the week with books usually being changed by Wednesday, so please ensure these are being brought back into school. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday with homework - spelling tests are the following Friday mornings.

Maths

Maths will continue to be split for the Year 4 and Year 5 children. The Y4's will go to Mrs Griffin's classroom each day for their maths lesson. This is so all the Year 4s in the school follow the Year 4 curriculum, it also means they can prepare for their multiplication check. The Year 5 children will stay in class with me to complete Year 5 maths.

We will be starting off the term learning all about fractions before moving on to decimals and percentages. Children will have daily arithmetic questions as a maths starter to spend 10 minutes on for practice, as well as daily reasoning and problem-solving questions and challenges.

For our Year 4 children, as part of the government scheme, in June, all Year 4 children will be carrying out a times tables test which they will be starting to practice this year. For this, children need to know all their times tables up to the 12 times tables. Sumdog is an excellent way of practicing this, if you can please ensure your children are using this that would help a lot. If you have any problems with Sumdog, please let me know.

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Science

In Science, we are moving on to a new topic 'All about animals, including humans', we will be particularly focusing on the amazing changes that humans go through from babies to adults. Science will be covered by Mrs Osborne this term.

P.E

Within P.E. this term, we shall be continuing with our swimming on a **Wednesday**, and another curriculum area with JB Sports on a **Friday** afternoon. Please ensure your child comes to school with their kit on those days if they are not keeping them in school, although we encourage PE kits to be left in school now. Please also ensure that your child does not wear earrings and that long hair is tied up on PE days.

Key Information

- Please ensure that children are bringing in the correct PE kit on the relevant days.
- I'm not in school on a Thursday, so please message Mrs Osborne should you need to that day.

It will be an exciting and busy term, with lots of fun things to look forward to!

Many Thanks,
Phoenix team 😊

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