

The Star Room - April 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after what we hope was a very restful (and well-deserved) Easter break!

The summer term is full of exciting opportunities for the Star Room children; not only do we focus on preparation for transition into secondary school, but we further broaden the children's horizons with a variety of events, such as first aid training and the much-loved cake sale!

Of course, the biggest event of the term is the four-day residential trip, which will take place 14th May to 17th May. We are delighted once again to take the children to Penshurst Place, hosted by the Bushcraft Company, which proved last year to be a wonderfully exciting residential full of adventure and fun memories. You will receive separate communication regarding this trip, including kit list and expectations, in the welcome pack this week.

In terms of the children's learning, we will be studying a variety of topics this term:

Geography – Climate Change

A very topical subject given recent protests in Central London, we will be looking at the causes and effects of global climate change, with a particular emphasis on what we can do to protect the environment.

Science – Classification and Microorganisms

This term we will be studying how scientists classify different species, with a special focus on microorganisms that we can only see under a microscope, such as bacteria.

NB: We will also be learning about human reproduction this term, and you will receive further communication about the timings and content of those lessons nearer the time. We will ensure that these lessons are age-appropriate, and they will follow statutory guidance and the PSHE curriculum. We have planned separate talks for boys and girls for specific sections of this topic; Amie D will be delivering the science and "girl talk" sections, while Michael will be delivering the majority of the PSHE section as well as the "boy talk". Please contact Caroline if you have any concerns or require any extra information.

Religious Studies – Sikhism

After studying two Abrahamic religions (Judaism and Christianity), we will be studying Sikhism, with a particular focus on how Sikhs in Britain balance practising their faith with living in an increasingly secular society.

Literacy

For the first half term, the Star Room will be studying a novel, *Trash* by Andy Mulligan, which was described as 'Harrowing, exhilarating, humbling and quite brilliant' by The Bookseller. Children will be expected to read sections of this novel in advance each week, and they will be given a timetable to follow when they arrive after the Easter break. After half term, we will be creating reading books for our Green Room buddies.

Reading

We continue to place great emphasis on reading throughout the school, so the Star children are expected to read one book per week, unless it is a particularly lengthy novel in which case two weeks is acceptable. The library system logs all of the books read so we are keeping track of their progress and I will discuss it with the children regularly. The children should use their Reading Passports to guide their book selection, which will be monitored by Christian on a weekly basis. On nights when they have guided reading to complete from *Trash*, this is expected to take precedent, but shouldn't be overwhelming if managed well.

Other information you may find useful is:

PE

Monday: - PE will continue in the afternoon at Golden Lane, children must wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Wednesday: - Sports at Coram's Fields.

Thursday – Swimming will continue in the morning at Golden Lane.

Friday: - Tennis with Luke and Robert will continue at Golden Lane. Children are expected to bring their own tennis racket and must wear trainers; it is your child's responsibility to remember their PE kit and equipment- not yours!

We have had a wonderful year so far and this term is going to be full of excitement! If you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support,

Michael and Christian