



# KESTREL

## CLASS



# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome...



I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas break and have enjoyed some much deserved family time and rest over what I'm sure was a very different Christmas to normal.

The children have returned to school and settled well this week, catching up with friends and returning to the daily routines as if they've not been away. .

We are pleased to have Miss Debenham join us in Kestrel Class for the term as she completes her teacher training.

*Mrs Fowler-Simpson*

### Maths:

Over the half-term, we will be returning to some of the key mathematical concepts that we have already looked at in order to develop our understanding of these further.

We will begin by learning more about the place value of numbers; including looking at negative numbers and Roman numerals.

Following this, we will look at the four calculations. We will become more fluent in using efficient methods to find the answers to questions in addition to solving problems rooted in these areas.

Finally, we will remind ourselves of fractions, decimals and percentages, having a greater focus on equivalence and finding fractions and percentages of amounts.

### English:

This half-term, we are continuing to develop our understanding of our topics with literary texts which are based around these.

We will begin the half-term by reading *Journey to Jo'burg* (by Beverly Naidoo), thinking carefully about the setting and character descriptions and how the story is clearly set with cultural devices. We will use our learning to create our own narratives with cultural settings.

Following this, we will write biographies about Nelson Mandela, after reading his book *Long Walk to Freedom* as well as reading extracts from *My Story: Slave Girl* (Patricia C. McKissack). We will use this to explore how the diaries are written before writing our own.



## Timetable for the Week

*English and Maths are taught every day.*

**Monday** – Mrs Fowler-Simpson will be out for the afternoon today. Kestrels will be taught by Mrs Ashby.

**Tuesday** – PE today. Children should wear PE kits today please.

**Wednesday** – Mrs Fowler-Simpson will be out for the afternoon today. Kestrels will be taught by Mrs Spark.

**Thursday** – PE today. Children should wear PE kits today please.

# Topic



This half-term, our topic is Journey from America.

On 12th October 1492, Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas and introduced it to the rest of the world. Whilst he was amazed by his significant discovery, little did he know about the impact this would have on cultures, ideologies and relationships many hundreds of years later, all around the world.

We are going to investigate the landscape of America; it's environment, it's national parks, it's time zones and it's transport links. We will find out about the history of America in relation to 'black rights' and the origins of the slave trade, as well as creating our own American art and discovering the beginning of Blues music.

## Ways that you can help your child at home this half term:

To help support your child over the next half term, it would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that you;

- hear your child read regularly.
- practice their weekly spellings.
- help your child to learn their multiplication tables and help them increase their speed in reciting them.
- support your child with their weekly home learning.

You could also;

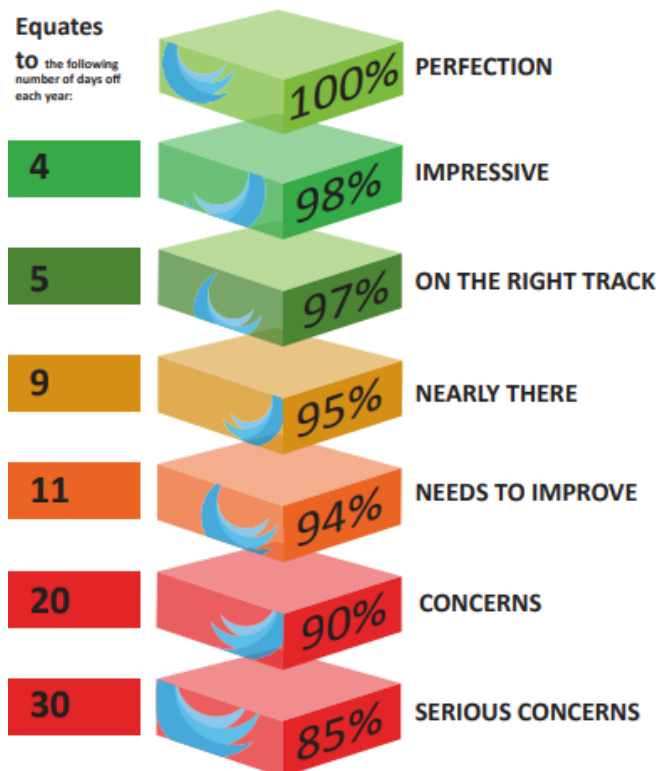
- encourage your child to read the time.
- cook, allowing your child to measure the ingredients.
- take your child shopping and ask them to add the amount of money being spent, they could even write the shopping list before going!

## Attendance:

This year, we are continuing to strive for our whole school attendance to meet our target of 97%. Remember that children, who have 100% by the end of the half term, will receive their gold

### Equates

to the following number of days off each year:



## Beck Row Values.

As visitors enter the academy, they will see Beck Row Bob on display inside the entrance.



Bob likes to tell us about the values which we believe are important to our pupils development, as a whole-individual.

Our over-arching values are thoughtfulness, morality, respect, co-operation and ambition. These are shared through our assemblies as well as the displays in our classrooms and around school.

Furthermore, we praise the children for using these values throughout their time within the academy and award 'Dojo' points to the children for their efforts in showing these values. These 'Dojos', not only work towards small prizes for individual pupils, but also for their class and house teams.

In line with this, we have renamed our houses. All children will now be in one of the five houses;



Bell (blue),  
Branson (green),  
Wilde (yellow),  
Bissell (red) or  
Dali (purple).

This half-term's focus value is **morality**.