Stoke Lodge
Primary School

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Term 2 & 3 – USA and Canada Class Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had an excellent half-term break. This term our gem is Emerald and we will be focusing on resilience.

Our new Curious Curriculum theme for Term 1 is **"Exploration"** and we will be learning about what this concept means both geographically and scientifically. Our first enquiry question, "**What does it mean to explore?"** focuses on key geographical skills such as the 8 points of a compass, longitude and latitude and developing an understanding of important explorers from history.

Following this, our next enquiry questions, **"How is exploration linked to science?**" and "How have living things adapted to their environment?" considers the theme from a scientific perspective. We will gain an understanding of evolution, inheritance and natural selection. We will learn about the discoveries of Charles Darwin and his voyage to the Galapagos Islands that helped inspire his Theory of Evolution.

Finally, we will consider "**How has exploration supported our understanding of the world today?"** We will study the artist '**Slaveika Aladjova'** a Bulgarian artist who applies watercolour skills in her work. We will create our own work based on creatures from the Galapagos.

Our class text this term is '**Ice Trap'** by Meredith Hooper. We will be writing a range of different text types including a narrative and a survival guide.

In maths, our focus this term will be fractions, decimals and percentages. We will consolidate prior knowledge, developing a deep understanding of concepts such as equivalence, ordering fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators and mixed numbers.

PE Kit:

It is expected that your child has a PE kit in school throughout the week. Please ensure all items, including uniform, are labelled with first and last names to allow us to keep track of them. If garments are not labelled, it can be difficult to return them to their rightful owner. For Term 1, our sessions will be on a **Monday and alternate Wednesday/Thursday in both classes.**

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Home Learning:

We expect all pupils to read to a family member or independently five times per week for ten minutes. Please ensure that reading diaries are acknowledged and signed by parents as this is an essential record of which books your child has read and how they are progressing. It is compulsory that books come to school daily. We will be checking reading diaries weekly for their five sessions of reading at home.

We will be sending home holiday homework to support children over the Christmas break.

Morning Snacks and Drinks:

If you would like to send your child into school with their own snack, we would ask that this is fruit or a healthy snack such as a cereal bar. Please only send WATER in drinks bottles.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to send me a message on Seesaw or speak to me outside the classroom at the end of the day.

Many thanks,

Mrs Foulger, Mrs Cain and Mr Whitbread
Class teachers