



Happy New Year all! (Didn't that decade fly by!)

I am really excited this term, not least because the lighter nights will be coming back to us, hopefully with some drier and warmer weather. However, the main excitement is due to the learning that we will be undertaking this term.

Our first topic will be based on Rivers, and the children will be learning about the journey of a river from mouth to source. They will identify the geographical features associated with rivers and use this to support their residential trip at Pinkery in March. They will research famous rivers from all over the world and collect some data on these, which will then be used during computing lessons to create charts and tables in excel.

In English, the children will first write a story based on the excellent wordless animation Flood by Alvaro Villa. They will focus mainly on describing the storm, creating pace and tension in their writing as they go. After that unit of work is complete, the children will then research the sad events at Lynmouth and Boscastle, leading to the creation of a newspaper report detailing the tragedy of one of these.

In maths, we move into the engine room and start to tackle the heavy machinery of multiplication, division, fractions and percentages.

**I cannot stress how important these are to your child's future mathematical achievement.**

To this end, most of your children need extra help at home to secure instant recall of their multiplication tables. This includes related division facts. As a school, we have invested in a reward system which your children should be able to describe to you – please ask them about it and please help them to achieve. Keep a lookout on Class Dojo to see photos of the children and the certificates that they have earned as they learn to master their tables.

In science this term, we will be looking at materials and their properties. During this unit, the children will be testing both thermal and electrical insulators, look at substances that dissolve, find ways to filter materials and identify changes that are both reversible and irreversible.

PE will again be on Wednesday afternoons and in the first half term will be focused on netball skills, in support of forthcoming tournament. Please make sure that the children have a kit in school. I would be loathe to let them go outside in cold, wet weather knowing they have nothing to change back into.

In support of our Pinkery trip and topic, our art will focus on landscapes, particularly through the use of watercolour paints. The more abstract, the better!

Mrs Mortlock is embarking on perhaps her most ambitious music project - beatboxing! The children will learn all about boots and cats and learn time signatures and how this art form is actually a very sophisticated percussive skill.

I hope to speak with all of you this term and I look forward to the coming weeks immensely.

Kind regards,

Mr Hookes

