



Dodo Times



ALTHOUGH this term is incredibly important (preparing for SATs) the Dodos' class still have lots of excitement to look forward to.

After an extremely successful first term we have already begun making progress. The last topic, Golden Age of Islam, was a huge success considering the scarcity of resources available for this period of history.

The current topic is titled: Industrial Revolution. I was going to call it 'Manchester: the greatest city in the world' but opted against it at the last minute; however, the Dodos will be learning about this time period through a comparison of Manchester and Norwich over history.

Also, during this term, the class will be setting up their own businesses. We are currently identifying gaps in the market and need to look for interesting business opportunities ASAP.

Instead of funding from a central source (i.e. bank or individual investor) we will hopefully 'crowdfund' the finance to start the enterprises so keep posted for more information. We are also keen to visit some different industries and give the class a taste of what their businesses could look like if they take off. Please contact me if you think you could help.



Planting some bulbs

English

We will be starting with some work on writing a discussion (Title: Should child labour be allowed?) and a biography of a famous engineer related to the industrial revolution.

We will also be writing about things for our businesses such as promotional material, films, business reports etc...



Meeting famous authors

There will also be a big focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar in the build up to SATs. This is normally taught within English lessons but there will be discreet sessions added in nearer the time.

Maths

Maths will also be ramping up to prepare for the SATs. We need to be sure everyone can perform to their best ability.

Maths is normally taught separately from the creative curriculum although the current topic does lend itself to a lot of cross over. Children will need to understand about profit and loss (hopefully not too much loss).

KS2 Assessment (SATs)

Below is timetable of the dates for the SATs examinations this year.

Date	Everyone	Level 6
Mon 11 May	Levels 3-5 English reading test	English reading test
Tues 12 May	Levels 3-5 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test	English grammar, punctuation and spelling test
Wed 14 May	Levels 3-5 mental mathematics test Levels 3-5 mathematics Paper 1	No level 6 tests timetabled for this day
Thurs 15 May	Levels 3-5 mathematics Paper 2	Mathematics Paper 1 and 2

Everyone will sit the level 3-5 tests. Some children (who will be notified nearer the time)



will sit an additional level 6 paper. Writing is NOT assessed in a test situation.

The children are given a writing level based on work that they have completed in class, which is then moderated. These moderation meetings take place directly after Easter, hence it is essential that we have evidence, across all subjects, of the children's writing before then. Although there is still time to improve after Easter, we need to have secure evidence to prove where the children are and justify their levels.



Level 6

Only a small percentage of the class will sit a level 6 paper. To be selected, children must have demonstrated that they are capable of level 5 consistently in the months beforehand.

Children and parents will be contacted individually regarding these tests in the near future.



Diary Dates

Mindframes	20 th January
Class Assembly	6 th February
Half Term	16 th – 20 th February
Easter	30 th March – 10 th April
Mock SATs week	27 th – 30 th April
SATs Week	11 th – 14 th May

Support from Home

Many parents want to know how they can help. In maths, we will be working through some past papers in class. It is really helpful if these can then be revisited at home.

It is essential that reading continues on a regular basis. In the tests, children will be required to read three texts and answer 35 – 40 questions within one hour. An example of the standard of text might be an article from a magazine or broadsheet newspaper, or a short story written in language similar to a Michael Morpurgo book.

The most important thing to do for writing is complete the talk home learning (see home learning). Most weeks we will be writing about our topic in a different genre. All children need to do is talk about what they are going to write about with someone at home. If the children have discussed their ideas first they will be much more successful when it comes to writing.

Home-School Communication

As many of you are aware the Brundall School website is being regularly updated with information about what we are learning each week. Keep checking to find out more.



DODOS



The home learning is also added there each week so everyone can see what is expected. Children are also given time to write it in their diaries as well – this is a skill they will need to practice for next year – so please check those as well.