



**PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**BADGER CLASS LETTER**  
**TERMS 3 & 4**



DATE: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Welcome back after Christmas holidays. I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

I'm very excited about a new start to the new term. We have lots of exciting learning and activities planned for the Spring Term.

The children have had a positive start to the term and are already showing potential in their learning.

**Term 3 Topic: Firedamp and Davy Lamps**

In this topic we will descend into the depths of Britain's coal mines and discover how coal miners brought the precious coal up to the surface that was needed to power industry.

During this half term, we'll find out about the many dangers of mining and why health and safety laws are important in the world today, and we will use geological maps to identify coal seams in the UK.

We'll also learn about the importance of coal during the Industrial Revolution, the process of the 'no choice' lottery and the miners' strikes.

In our English lessons, we are reading the book *Town is by the Sea* and write our own versions. We will also imagine we are child miners and give testimonies about the working conditions down the mines, and we will read letters about the General Strike of 1926 to deduce what was happening at that time.

For Art, we will study the work of the Pitmen Painters and recreate their style using a variety of art materials and techniques. We'll also consider the future of coal mining and how a coal-free future would be better for the environment.

We are hoping to invite an old miner to come and share his experiences with the class.

**Term 4 Topic - Peasants, Princes and Pestilence**

Lock your doors and pull up the drawbridge: the dreaded 'Great Pestilence' is here.

In this half-term, our class will learn all about the history of the Black Death and its effect on Britain and our local area. This term we will explore Canterbury and its history as part of our school trip.

Our geography skills will help us understand how the black death came to Britain and why it spread so quickly. We will investigate the effects of bacteria on the human body and find out about disgusting and dangerous plague 'cures'.

In English, we will create personal plague journals and diary entries that will record the horror of the Black Death. Also the children will write poetry inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's description of a knight in the prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*.

We'll learn about different social classes, understand the reasons for the Peasants' Revolt, and learn what it was like to be both a peasant and a knight during this time in history.

We'll also learn about the 'dance of death' and perform dances inspired by Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*.

**DATES**

'DEAR' Reading Event will be on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
Please do come along and read with your child.

Our class assembly will be on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**

Our Easter craft day will be on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 2:30pm.**



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**Badger Class**

## ATTENDANCE

Our class have achieved several 100% certificates and would like to continue the trend. It is vital that your child comes to school so they can learn and make the progress they deserve. Children enter the classroom at 8.40 and must be in class by 8.50 ready for their learning.

## UNIFORM

Please ensure your child comes to school dressed smartly, as this helps them feel proud about the school. The school logo on jumpers reminder children that they are all part of the Parkside Community so please remember to purchase them from the school office if you haven't already. Also, a quick reminder that children need to wear appropriate weather proof shoes, not **pumps or trainers**.

## Golden Rules

We will respect and value every member of our community and welcome every visitor.

We will take ownership for our learning and be responsible for our own choices.

We will try our best in everything that we do and allow others to do the same.

We will keep ourselves and others safe and move safely around the school.

We will respect the school environment and learning resources.

## Dates

Friday 10th January - Swimming starts  
Thursday 6th February – D.E.A.R  
Friday 14th February - Valentine's Disco

Thursday 19th March - Badger Class Assembly  
Friday 20th March - School Reports  
Wednesday 25th March - Parents' Evening  
Wednesday 1st April - Easter Crafts

Swimming is every Friday. Please make sure your child has a swimming costume and towel.  
P.E. is every Tuesday - please make sure your child has a full kit.

## Homework/Readers

Your child has weekly spelling and a times table tests every Friday. Each evening your child should read for 15 – 20 minutes. Please sign your child's yellow reading record every time you hear your child read.

## REACH for the Stars

Resilience

Effort

Aspiration

Courtesy

Honesty



## Healthy snack and lunches

At break time the children can purchase a healthy snack, such as an apple, banana, orange or some raisons.

A healthy lunch is important to help your child focus and learn their best. If your child has a packed lunch please make sure it is healthy. Ideas could be a healthy sandwich, low-fat crisps, yoghurt, one or two pieces of fruit.

## Other information

If you have any questions about your child's learning or how you can help at home please see me after-school. Alternatively, you can arrange an appointment via the office to see me after school.