

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p><b>Fiction: <i>Zelda Claw</i></b></p> <p>Your child will be learning to retell the story of <i>Zelda Claw</i>. They will be using this as a stimulus to examine and compose a tale of suspense. The children will recap upon story structure, as well as determining what makes a story suspenseful, such as the use of fronted adverbials, empty words (for example: it, shape, shadow), rhetorical questions and powerful setting description.</p> <p><b>Non-fiction:</b> This term we will be composing a persuasive piece about a 'multi-functional spy phone'. In particular, we will be focusing on emotive language, generalisers (e.g. the vast majority) and the use of rhetorical questions.</p>
	<p>Continue adding to your glossary of interesting words and phrases you find. Remember, at Floreat we have a 'magpie book', which we use to store shiny words that the children like so that they can use them again later. Encourage your children to steal vocabulary that shines!</p>
	Writing
<p>You can support your child by ensuring that they sit properly on their chair with their feet on the floor, facing the table with a pencil in their writing hand and their other hand on their work. Please ensure that your child completes their home learning in joined up writing and with a sharp pencil.</p>	
Reading	<p><b>Sounds-Write (Phonics)</b></p> <p>We will continue consolidating the children's knowledge of the English phonetic code and using this to support both their reading and spelling of polysyllabic words, e.g., bi/cy/cle.</p>
	<p><b>Whole Class Reading</b></p> <p>This term your child will be reading <i>The Firework Maker's Daughter</i> which will support the learning the children will be completing in English. The texts will be used to develop the children's vocabulary; abilities to infer, predict and explain; and the skills of sequencing and summarising a text.</p> <p>As well, this will be an opportunity for the children to develop their confident reading voices. We are hoping to develop their ability to express and use intonation appropriately.</p>
	<p>Please support by correcting spellings while your child is doing their Home Learning. At Floreat, we are direct when giving feedback e.g. a child spells the word 'accident' with an a &gt; accidAnt, we say "In this word the sound is represented with an 'e'."</p> <p>Read with your child as often as possible! And, crucially, <i>re-read</i> with them. If your child has read a text out loud to you, ask them to re-read it once they have gone through the decoding stage. This will help comprehension. Finally, read it <i>to</i> them. This models intonation and expression when they re-read it for a final time.</p> <p>Ask your child to summarise what they are reading. Challenge them to create summaries of a section of text with fewer than ten words.</p>
Mathematics	<p><b>Maths No Problem</b></p> <p>During this half term the children will begin to explore numbers up to 10,000. They will compose and decompose numbers consisting of thousands, hundreds, tens and ones with a large focus on the value of each digit in a 4-digit number. They will be comparing and ordering numbers as well as adding and subtracting. Furthermore, they will also round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. In all maths lessons the children will be working on their investigative skills as well as mathematical reasoning.</p>
	<p>You could support at home by asking your child questions about their maths learning. For example, prove that... What if... If this equals... what might this equal? If we know that... what else do we know?</p>

	E.g. If we know that $17 + 17 = 34$ then what does $170 + 170 = ?$
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p><b>Science</b> – We will be learning about classifying animals. The children will: recognise and group animals according to similar characteristics; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; and recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.</p> <p><b>History</b> – This half term, your child will be learning about Ancient Rome. They will explore the spread of the Roman empire, the nature of their differing governments and daily life as a Roman.</p>
	You can support your child at home by questioning them about the areas we are studying this half-term and encouraging them to read widely around them too. Any additional knowledge that your child brings to the classroom will be duly celebrated!
<b>Character</b>	Your child is learning about bravery, service and love and kindness. Whilst looking at these virtues we will explore real life contexts that the children might find themselves in and how we could approach these situations. These virtues will be embedded through discussion and stories as well as activities rooted in reality that will bring the learning to life!
	In terms of developing your child's character, really question them. For example, this half-term, challenge your child's judgements – make them reason as to why they make the judgements they do and help to illuminate different perspectives.
<b>Music</b>	This term we will be introducing 'Composer of the Week'. The children will listen to a different composer every week and we will discuss and compare the different musical variations. In addition, we will also continue to learn and sing a variety of songs.
	You can support your children by exposing them to a variety of classical composers and discussing the music.
<b>P.E. and Dance</b>	This half term Year 4 children will learn netball and football. They will build upon their learning last year to further refine their skills. There will also be a great focus on spatial awareness.
	Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school every Monday morning.

General reminder – Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day so that they can play outside come rain or shine. As we know, the weather in England can change very rapidly!