

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p><b>Fiction: The King of the Fishes</b></p> <p>Your child will be learning to retell the story of The King of the Fishes. This is an original story by Pie Corbett. It is designed to consolidate the children's knowledge of narrative structure, i.e., the ingredients that make up a story's opening, build-up, problem, resolution and ending. Further to that, the children will continue to focus on effective characterisation (<i>showing</i> the reader what a character is like through a range of literary devices – not <i>telling</i>) as well as using the five senses to write an atmospheric setting description. Possessive apostrophes will also be a focus where children will learn how to use a possessive apostrophe accurately in both singular (The dog's bone.) and plural (The dogs' bone.).</p> <p><b>Poetry:</b></p> <p>In the final week of the half term we will introduce the children to various forms of poetry. As part of this week the children will read, analyse, discuss and create different types of poems.</p>
	<p>While reading fiction with your child, really question them about how the author is showing the reader what the character is like. For example, ask a question like what word can you see that shows the character is scared?</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>
	<p><b>Nelson Handwriting</b></p> <p>Your child will continue to write with their 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. All Year 3 children have been practising their joined-up Nelson handwriting for over a year and have made great progress.</p> <p>Also, those children who have shown real progress with handwriting will be introduced to writing in exercise books without tramlines.</p> <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., utt/er/ing.</p> <p><b>Whole Class Reading</b></p> <p>This term your child will be reading a range of texts 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>

<b>Mathematics</b>	<p><b>Maths No Problem</b></p> <p>This half term, your child will be working with pounds and pence. To begin with, they will be identifying the coins and notes that make up the English currency and how they can combine these to make various prices. Further to that, they will be adding and subtracting the prices of items and learning how to count change. The children will also be studying time, specifically telling the time on analogue and digital clocks, as well as measuring time in seconds, minutes and hours so that they can compare their readings. Too, there will be a focus on statistics; the children will be representing and analysing data in the form of picture and bar graphs. "Prove it" will be commonplace in maths lessons this year. "How do you know?", "Explain...", "Tell me more..." and "What if...?" will all be used to help deepen your child's understanding of mathematical concepts. We will be encouraging your child to explain their reasoning in multiple ways, with a large focus on purposeful talk within our maths lessons.</p>
	<p>You can support by continuing to practise number bond fluency and drawing children's attention to making number bonds within numbers to support addition. (For example: 4+ 6) Please also practise the all of the times tables at home starting from anywhere in the middle, not just 0! Please also encourage your child to tell the time throughout the day (using both analogue and digital clocks).</p>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p><b>Science</b> – We will be learning about simple machines. The children will develop an understanding of why simple machines are used and how the world we live depend on many tools to help us complete tasks easily. The children will be experimenting with; levers, wheels, inclined planes and wedges.</p> <p><b>History</b> – This half term, your child will be learning about the Reformation. This will be framed through a discussion of the Tudor monarchs – particularly Henry VIII and his desire to embrace the Protestant Reformation started by Martin Luther so that he could negate the power of the Pope, who would not grant him a separation from Catherine of Aragon – indeed, he believed she could not provide him with a male heir and he wanted out!</p> <p><b>Geography</b> – Building on your child's knowledge of rivers, we will be learning about the geography of India – particularly the River Ganges and the Indus River; how ancient civilisations formed there; and how these civilisations brought about ideas still pertinent to the world today: Hinduism and Buddhism.</p>
	<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!</p>
<b>Character</b>	<p>Your child is learning about Optimism and Joy; Creativity; and Humility. 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 routed in reality that will bring the learning to life!</p>
	<p>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.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Your child is learning to play either the violin or the viola. As I am sure you are aware, the children are becoming more confident with their instruments and reading music. This will continue into the new year.</p>
	<p>You can support your child by encouraging them to practice little and often. The music tutors recommend 10 minutes per day.</p>
<b>P.E. and Dance</b>	<p>As well as swimming, your child will be prepared for their Sports' Day by taking part in a range of athletics activities with meticulous coaching from the AMSA team. They will be opened up to a world of competition in which the focus will be the development of their fundamental skills of movement.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school every Monday morning.</p> <p>It would be great if you could put your trainers on and come and join us at our Family Fun Run at King George's Park on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 14:15.</p>

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!