

## Nightingale Class

Our new learning theme for this half term is...

### **Don't Stop Be-leafing**

This half term, our learning will blossom as we dive into the world of plants! We'll discover how they grow, what they need to thrive, and the fascinating processes that help them survive and reproduce. While most of our subjects will link to our leafy theme, some will continue to be taught discretely.

In English, we will be learning how to write a persuasive letter. Children will explore how to express opinions clearly and respectfully, using strong arguments and cohesive devices to convince the reader. We will build on our SPAG knowledge by practising the use of conjunctions, expanded noun phrases with prepositions, and speech marks to add clarity and detail to our writing.

This half term in maths, we will focus on fractions, money, and time. We'll begin by exploring fractions, including adding and subtracting them, finding fractions of a set of objects, and reasoning with amounts. We'll then move on to money, learning to convert between pounds and pence, and calculate totals, differences, and change. Finally, we'll develop our understanding of time by telling the time to the nearest minute, using a.m. and p.m., and measuring durations in different units.

## Reminders:

Please ensure your child brings their reading book to school every day.

This half term, PE will focus on swimming. Please ensure your child comes to school with their swimming kit on Fridays. We will begin swimming on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

As part of our healthy eating approach, we do not allow squash or flavoured water in school, so please ensure your child's bottle contains only water. If your child would like a snack at break time, please provide fresh fruit or vegetables to promote a healthy diet.



Our science topic this half term is plants. We will explore the main parts of a plant and their functions, investigate the conditions plants need to grow and thrive, and learn how water is transported within them. We will also discover the importance of leaves in making food through photosynthesis and understand the role flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants. Throughout the unit, we will carry out practical investigations to deepen our scientific understanding.

In DT, we will be designing and building a bug hotel. Children will explore how to create a safe and suitable habitat for insects by planning, selecting materials, and constructing their own mini shelters. This project will encourage creativity, teamwork, and an understanding of the needs of living things in their environment.

## How to support your child at home:

Sharing stories and listening to your child read can really help further their learning at home. I completely understand that life can be busy, but even 10 minutes a day can make a big difference. Pupils need to bring their books to school each day as we read regularly in class. Aim for 25 times each half term.

Your child should be logging into Times Tables Rockstars as often as possible to work on their recall of times tables. There are also plenty of games and activities available on Purple Mash. If you need any help with logging in, please let me know.

### Links to previous learning...

Our theme work will also give us a chance to revisit our previous learning on plants, including how they grow and their basic needs, and further develop our understanding of how plants adapt to different environments around the world.

### Dates for your diary:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May** VE Day Celebrations  
**Summer 1 Ends: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**