

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p>Fiction: The Magic Brush</p> <p>Your child will be learning to retell the story of The Magic Brush. 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 be focusing 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 more advanced sentence construction in which your child will learn how to use a variety of subordinating conjunctions to express time, place and cause; too, they will learn that these subordinating conjunctions can be used as sentence openers to change the feel of their writing. E.g., "The birds love to tweet as soon as the sun rises." becomes "As soon as the sun rises, the birds love to tweet."</p> <p>Non-fiction:</p> <p>Your child will learn how to write a set of instructions. Here, the learning focus will be on this genre's strict chronological structure, list form and use of diagrams. Furthermore, the children will be learning how to use simple clear, formal English; imperative verbs; and appropriate time connectives for coherence.</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>Nelson Handwriting</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>Sounds-Write (Phonics)</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>Whole Class Reading</p> <p>This term your child will be reading a prose adaptation of William Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> which will serve as an introduction to the Bard and provide opportunities to really embed our key reading skills – particularly sequencing and summarising – so that the children can be introduced to excerpts of the original play with enough contextual knowledge to enjoy its rich language. There will be lots of drama-based activities to really develop your child's confident voice.</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 > 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>

<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>Maths No Problem This half term, your child will be developing their measuring skills. To begin with, they will be working with length measurements over a metre with a view to converting between different units e.g. kilometres to metres and vice versa. They will then continue to develop their measuring skills by moving onto weight measurements. During this topic they will focus on converting between kilograms and grams, as well as putting their estimation skills to use. Following this, the children will move onto learning about volume and mass. Converting between litres and millilitres will be the focus and children will also be given the chance to experiment with a variety of containers (e.g. bottles, cups, mugs) to deepen the children's understanding of capacity. They will extend their knowledge by using these skills in different contexts when answering everyday word problems, e.g. The distance between Lucy's house and her school is 1km 400m. The distance between her house and the library is twice as much. What is the distance between Lucy's house and the library in metres? "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>
<p>Knowledge</p>	<p>Science – We will be learning about the human body. We will explore how cells are the building blocks to all living things. Children will understand that cells make up tissues, tissues make up organs and organs work in systems. We will then look at the digestive system and the roles of all the components. Lastly, we will explore how to take care of our body and understand why we need nutrients, vitamins and minerals.</p> <p>History – This half term, your child will be learning about the War of the Roses. This will be framed through an exploration of the House of York and the House of Lancaster; how their 32 year struggle between the years 1455 and 1487 culminated with Henry Tudor's victory at the Battle of Bosworth Field and his eventual marrying of Elizabeth of York to unite the two warring factions which, thus, ushered in the Tudor period.</p> <p>Geography – Your child will be exploring rivers and basins. They will be building on their knowledge of the water cycle and looking at the river basins features e.g. tributaries, floodplain, delta etc. In addition, they will locate the major rivers around the world.</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>
<p>Character</p>	<p>Your child is learning about Appreciation and Awe; Judgment and Prudence; and Forgiveness. 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>
<p>Music</p>	<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>
<p>P.E. and Dance</p>	<p>Children learn how to outwit their opponents and score when playing invasion games. They develop skills in finding and using space to keep the ball. They play with the same basic court set-up and rules, but use a range of equipment and skills, including shooting, passing, dribbling, teamwork and sportsmanship skills.</p> <p>Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to school every Monday morning. Children should have trousers as part of their PE kit as we teach PE outside when possible.</p>