

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p><b>Fiction: <i>Varjak Paw</i></b></p> <p>Your child will be learning to retell the story of <i>Varjak Paw</i>. They will use this to help them plan and write a short story that creates suspense. We will create eerie settings with multi-clause sentences, and hair-raising moments with careful use of different tenses.</p> <p><b>Non-fiction:</b> This term the children will be writing recounts. They will study various examples and use these to write their own. They will think carefully about structuring their recount and choosing appropriate grammatical features to ensure it flows.</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>Whole Class Reading</b></p> <p>This term your child will be reading <i>Varjak Paw</i> which will support the learning the children will be completing in English. The text 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>You could support at home by asking your child questions about their math learning. For example: prove that... what if... if this equals... what might this equal? If we know that... what else do we know? E.g. If we know that <math>17 + 17 = 34</math> then what does <math>170 + 170 = ?</math></p>	

Knowledge	<p><b>Science</b> – We will be learning about ‘Ecology.’ We will look closely at habitats, why ecosystems are important, the different levels of food chains and pollution and its impact on the environment.</p> <p><b>History</b> – This half term, your child will ‘Life in Ancient Rome.’ They will learn about its social hierarchy, art and culture and Pompeii.</p> <p><b>Geography</b> – This half term, your child will be learning about, ‘Eastern Europe. They will be locating this on a map, as well as comparing two geographical locations with respect to their climate, culture and geographical features.</p> <p><b>Art</b>- We will be learning about ‘Design.’ We will learn about the elements of art, composition, expressionism and complementary colours. We will focus on the works of Matisse and Munch.</p> <p><b>RE</b>- We will be looking at Christian places of worship, why people pray and how it can be meaningful to belong to a group within society.</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>
Character and PSHE (Jigsaw)	<p>This half term your child will be focusing on the virtues Perseverance, Curiosity and Leadership &amp; Teamwork. Your child will explore these virtues through drama, stories and discussions whilst looking at authentic contexts to analyse and deliberate their approach to them.</p> <p><i>Perseverance</i> – we will be learning about the life of Muhammad Ali, who showed perseverance to become one of the greatest boxers in history.</p> <p><i>Curiosity</i> – we will be looking at different avenues of exploring our curiosity and how we can hone these by embedding research and class discussions.</p> <p><i>Leadership and Teamwork</i> – we will be learning about what qualities a great leader possesses and explore real life contexts that the children might find themselves in and how we could approach these situations through teamwork.</p> <p>In PSHE this term, we will be looking at “Dreams and goals”. Within this topic, we will look at reflecting on positive experiences and how this can help counteract disappointment, how to set new goals and how to work out steps to achieving our hopes and goals.</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>
Music	<p>This term we will be listening to ABBA. We will listen to (and sing!) a variety of ABBA songs so that we can discuss and learn about the elements of music.</p>
	<p>You can support your children by exposing them to a variety of classical composers and discussing the music.</p>
P.E. and gymnastics	<p>This half term Year 4 children will learn gymnastics. They will build upon their learning last year to further refine their skills. There will also be a great focus on spatial awareness.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child comes into school wearing their full P.E. kit on their P.E. day. Children will not be getting changed at school until further notice.</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. It is getting very cold, and we don’t want any children being uncomfortable or getting ill.