

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	<p>Fiction: <i>Zelda Claw</i></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>Non-fiction: How to Transport to Starshine City</p> <p>Children will be looking at using imperative verbs, organising a text within a list and using time connectives to join together procedural information.</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>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., bi/cy/cle.</p> <p>Whole Class Reading</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 > 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 maths 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 $17 + 17 = 34$ then what does $170 + 170 = ?$</p>
Knowledge	<p>Science – We will be learning about the human body, where we will look at the skeletal and muscular systems, brain and nervous systems. History – This half term, your child will learn about James I. They will learn about how he came to the throne, his values and belief in the Divine Right of Kings and the Gunpowder Plot. Geography – Your child will be learning about spatial sense, including how to read a map using co-ordinates. Art – Children will be looking at light in Art, understanding how artists use tone to give the impression of a three-dimensional object in a two-dimensional space. They will then expand this knowledge to include using colour to give this impression.</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	<p>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!</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 investigating the different dimensions of music, using the song 'Mamma Mia' as a basis. Through this we will listen to a variety of songs from the same musical era to compare and contrast the styles of the time. We will use this to inspire our own compositions, using glockenspiels.</p>
	<p>You can support your children by exposing them to a variety of classical composers and discussing the music.</p>
P.E. and Dance	<p>This half term Year 4 children will be developing team work and co-ordination skills through a range of team based games and challenges. Please see the email dated 11.09.20 for further information.</p>
	<p>Please ensure your child comes into school wearing their full P.E. kit on their PE 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. As we know, the weather in England can change very rapidly! All blazers, coats and PE kits must be clearly named.