

THE AMERICAS CLASS

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to The Americas Class! We are excited for the new school year ahead and the children have already made a brilliant start to the year - settling well, demonstrating their interest in learning and sharing their sense of humour! The children are quickly picking up routines and new ways of working, listening carefully to instructions and working hard... and have done all of this with smiling faces. We are really excited for the year to come and all that we will achieve together in Viscacha Class.

Journey of Discovery

This year, our 'Journey of Discovery' will be focused on North and South America. Across the year, we will be finding out about North and South America's geographical features, learning about some of the people who live in these continents and considering the impact of different civilisations.

This half term, our Journey of Discovery is 'Stars, Stripes and States'. We will be embarking on a road-trip of research around North America, stopping to see the most interesting sights, learning about North American geography, culture and art – to name a few. The children will begin by looking at the 'discovery' of America – and whether or not you can discover a place if people already live there!

English

Writing: This half term, we will be focussing on 'Gorilla' by Anthony Brown, studying his magical night-time journey to write adventure stories of our own. After that, we will be adopting the role of astronauts to write our own transmissions from space.

Spelling: We will be sending home a list of the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 statutory spelling lists. These will be taught in class across the year, but extra practice at home never goes amiss. Each half term we will be sending home particular words to focus on from the list. Whilst we know that practising spellings isn't always the most fun thing to do, we will also send home a sheet of ideas of different ways to practice them, which should hopefully help.

Reading: In Book Talk sessions, we will be reading 'The Indian in the Cupboard' by Lynne Reid Banks – ask your child about what's happening so they can keep you up to date! One of the best ways to support children's writing is to help them develop a love of reading – whether that's stories, poetry, graphic novels or even recipes. We are both passionate about children's reading, and think it is essential that the children are enjoying what they are reading. Please do get in touch if your child is struggling to find a book they would like to read, and we will do our best to help them find something. To help your child with their reading, we do ask your help to encourage your child to read **at least** 3 times a week at home and record this in their reading record.

Maths

We will be continuing to use the Power Maths scheme of work, which helps children become fluent in answering calculations as well as developing their mathematical thinking skills with problem solving challenges and mathematical reasoning questions. This half term we will be focusing on place value, helping the children gain in confidence and understanding of numbers up to 1,000,000, before using this understanding in developing their knowledge of addition and subtractions, using 'formal' methods (i.e. column addition and subtraction) and mental calculations. Next half term we will be applying this learning in statistics (looking at tables and graphs), finding out about prime, square and cube numbers, and deepening understanding of area and perimeter. Throughout the term, we will also regularly do arithmetic in Year 5 to help keep all four mathematical operations present in the children's minds, through regular recall. Please encourage your child to continue to practise their multiplication tables as these will be essential this year.

PE

This half term we will have our PE lessons on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure that your child comes to school in PE kit on both of these days, and that earrings are removed or that tape is provided. Our PE kit is as follows: a jade or white T-shirt, black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, a plain coloured, round-necked sweatshirt and trainers. No hoods, zips, logos or patterns.

Music

We will be having clarinet lessons every Tuesday. The children will be provided with clarinets, which eventually they will be able to take home. If your child brings their clarinet home, please ensure that it is brought back into school **every** Tuesday – the children are welcome to bring them in on a Monday and store them over night in school.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or their time in school, please do get in touch. We cannot reply to any messages on Class Dojo, but you can catch us briefly at the door in the morning to arrange a meeting, pass messages through the office or send an email to admin@risbyprimary.com.

With best wishes,

Mr Andrew Marwood and Mrs Rebecca Beers

Key dates

Wednesday 1st October: Individual Class Photos

Friday 3rd October: Harvest Festival at St Giles Church – 9:30am

Monday 20th/ Thursday 23rd October: Parent Consultations

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October: Half Term

Monday 15th December: Year 4-6 Christmas Play Performance – 2pm

Tuesday 16th December: Year 4-6 Christmas Play Performance – 6pm

Wednesday 17th December: Risby Christmas Craft Day

Friday 19th December: Christmas service at St Giles Church – 9:15am