

# The Glapton Academy

## Year 4 Alder Newsletter

### Autumn—Term Two 2020



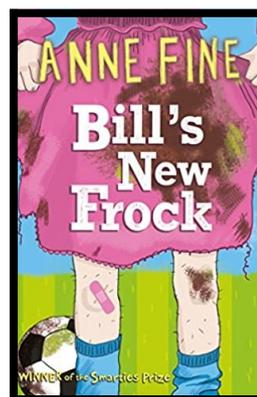
#### Topic

This half term, the children will begin their Geography topic, 'Marvellous Mexico'. They will be learning: how to accurately use maps and atlases to name and locate countries in both North and South America; locate areas of similar environmental regions; identify geographical similarities and differences between England and Mexico and how to read 4-figure grid references. As well as geographical skills, the children will also be learning about the topic throughout different areas of the curriculum. They will be looking at the work of the Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, and producing work in her style; attempting to produce some traditional Mexican dishes and identifying and discussing traditional Mexican music.



#### Book Recommendation

For a book that is stylishly written and thought-provoking, read: 'Bill's New Frock' by Anne Fine.

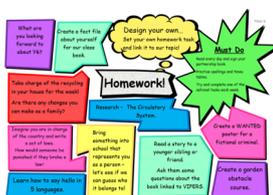


Bill wakes up one day as a girl, and is horrified to be sent to school in a frilly, pink frock with fiddly shell buttons. There he finds life suddenly very different. The bully whistles at him, instead of kicking him; he can't be picked to lift a table - not being a 'big strong boy'; his work's

supposed to be ultra neat and he's being cast as Lovely Rapunzel, who in any case never gets to say anything! How on earth is he going to survive a whole day like this? Everything just seems to be different for girls . . .

#### Homework

All children will be given homework every **Friday**. This must be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Homework given will always be a reconsolidation of learning that has taken place in school. In addition to this, a homework menu will be provided each half term. These tasks will cover a range of skills. Children can choose as many additional tasks as they like to fit in with their busy schedules at home.



#### English

In English this term, we will be exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction genres whilst looking at a variety of non-fiction books based on our Mexican topic. We will be studying a variety of text types including: non-chronological reports, informal letter writing and setting descriptions, in order to support us when we are creating our own versions.

We will also be working hard to improve our GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling)) skills through the use of Writing LEAPs. We will begin this term by learning how to organise ideas into paragraphs and choose and use appropriate sub-headings.

In reading, we will begin the term working on our skimming, scanning and text marking skills in order to locate information and evidence within a text. We will also be continuing to use VIPERS to help support us with our comprehension skills.



## Maths

This term, the children in Alder will be focusing on the four operations and area and perimeter within maths. We will begin the half term by continuing with the addition work we began last half term, rounding to check answers to calculations and solving addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why. When looking at area and perimeter, the children will learn how to: measure and calculate the perimeter of a rectilinear figure in cm and m; estimate, calculate and compare different measures; use decimal notation to record metric measures. E.g. kilograms, kilometres, metres, litres, pounds and pence and convert between different units of measure. When we move on to looking at multiplication and division, the children will learn to: multiply numbers up to 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number using the formal written method of short multiplication; divide numbers up to 3 digits by a 1-digit number using the formal method of short division, which include remainders; double and halve any 3-digit number by partitioning and recognise and use factor pairs. In year 4, it is a statutory requirement that all children sit a times table test. For that reason, and as times tables form an important basis for many areas of the mathematics curriculum, we will be doing lots of practise on them. There is no trick to being able to do these, other than practise, so any support that you can give your child at home to learn these off by heart would be greatly appreciated. Please also encourage your child/ren to access TT Rockstars as often as possible to support them with this.



## Maths Vocabulary

Plus  
Add  
Subtract  
Takeaway  
Minus  
Multiply  
Product  
Divide  
Divisible by  
Length  
Width  
Area  
Perimeter

## Partnership Books

This term we will be continuing our reading reward system. Everyone in the class should be striving to become 'Reading Rocketeers', aiming to get to 'space' (200 reads) by the end of the academic year. Children are encouraged to read at home every day and to make a note in their partnership book every time they read outside of school. After every 20 reads, they will get one step closer to space and will be rewarded with a token which they can 'spend' on prizes and, of course, books!



## Spellings

All children will be given spelling words to learn each **Friday**.

These should be practised at home as often as possible and different words with the same spelling pattern will be tested in school the following **Friday**.

## PE

Our PE days will be **Mondays** and **Fridays**. Due to current circumstances and space within the cloakrooms, please only send kit in on these days. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit clearly labelled with their name. Earrings must be removed for these days.

### **PE kit consists of:**

Plain white t-shirt  
Black shorts or joggers  
Trainers (outside)  
Plimsolls (inside)

## Diary Dates

03.11.20: Virtual 'Come in and Share'  
WB 09.11.20: Anti-Bullying week  
13.11.20: Children in Need  
08.12.20: Virtual KS2 Christmas Concert  
16.12.20: Christmas dinner and jumper day – Christian Aid

We look forward to seeing you all again soon and working alongside you and your family.

*Mrs Ralph and  
Mrs Eden-Smith*