



Year 3 and 4 Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2024 – 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 4,

We hope you have all had a lovely half term and a well-deserved rest. We are very much looking forward to this new half term and all the exciting opportunities that we have coming up.

A quick reminder of what your child needs to bring to school, especially now the weather is getting colder:

- book bag (not a rucksack due to limited space in the cloakrooms)
- named water bottle (containing water only),
- named lunch box if having packed lunches,
- healthy snack for morning break,
- coat (clearly named) when necessary,
- a school hoodie for PE lessons as the children will still be going outside as much as possible.

Autumn Term 2 Curriculum

Over the next seven weeks we will be exploring a range of interesting units throughout our curriculum. Here is a brief overview so you are able to talk to your children about their learning.

English Writing	<p>Throughout this term writing lessons will focus on many different skills that we can use to improve our writing within fiction, non-fiction and poetry contexts. The texts we will be using to support our writing are listed below. Through exploring these texts we will look at deepening our understanding of conjunctions and adverbs as well as understanding what adverbials are and how we can use them effectively. We will also continue to develop the skill to organise our ideas into paragraphs. Another skill we will look at will include the appropriate choice of pronouns and nouns within and across sentences to aid cohesion.</p> <p>The texts we will use to support our writing this half term are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction: The Great Kapok Tree • Non-fiction: 24 hours in the Stone Age <p>We will write a character description, a fictional narrative and an explanation text.</p>
English Reading	<p>Our reading lessons are designed to develop the children’s comprehension skills. Lesson sequences are structured around reading VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarise). We will focus on the following texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poppy Field</i> by Michael Morpurgo – In this poetry text we will continue to look at the ‘Vocabulary’ VIPER and then focus on the ‘Summarise’ VIPER. This will include identifying and summarising the main ideas and beginning to distinguish between the important and less important information in a text. • <i>Voices</i> by Anthony Browne – Within this fiction text we will identify how language choices help build meaning and make inferences about the character’s feelings, thoughts and motives. • <i>The Iron Man</i> by Ted Hughes – In this non-fiction text we will again look at the meaning of the vocabulary used. We will then focus on the ‘Retrieve’ VIPER. This

	will include using relevant quotes from the text to support our answers and using more than one piece of evidence to justify an answer.
Mathematics	<p>During this half term, our maths lessons will start by completing our addition and subtraction units. After that, Year 3 will complete a multiplication and division unit, and Year 4 will first complete a unit on measuring area before progressing on to a multiplication and division unit. In addition to our core maths lessons, we will focus on developing our rapid recall of number and mental maths skills.</p> <p>Year 3 Within Addition and Subtraction, Year 3 pupils will continue be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add and subtract numbers mentally, add and subtract numbers with up to 3-digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction and estimate the answer to a calculation and use inverse operations to check answers. <p>Within multiplication and division, Year 3 pupils will be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiply and divide by 3, 4 and 8 alongside continuing to practise multiplying and dividing by 2, 5 and 10. The children will then be able to link this to their times tables. <p>Year 4 Within Addition and Subtraction, Year 4 pupils will continue to be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add and subtract numbers with up to 4-digits using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction. Where appropriate, children will estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation and solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why. <p>Within measure, Year 4 pupils will be taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What area is and how to measure it, including, counting the squares, making shapes and comparing area. <p>Within multiplication and division, Year 4 pupils will be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables and linking these when multiplying and dividing.
Science	This half term we will be looking at the topic 'States of Matter'. Within this unit of work, we will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. We will observe how materials change state when they are heated and cooled and continue to look at the processes of evaporation and condensation which we first learnt about in our Geography topic about 'Water' last half term.
History	Our first unit in History this year is 'The Stone Age to the Iron Age'. In this unit we will look at the meaning of 'prehistory' and discuss how we learn about the past through the work of archaeologists as there are no written records. We will focus on what life was like for people living in the Stone Age and identify the defining features of this period. We will then move onto how life changed as we progressed into the Bronze Age and Iron Age, comparing all three as we go through the unit. We will look at Stonehenge and its many mysteries along with what life was like living in an Iron Age hill fort.
Art	In Art this half term we will be 'Cave Painting'. When do this we will look at the following skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using varied brush techniques to create shapes, textures, patterns and lines. • Mixing colours effectively using the correct language. • Creating different textures and effects with papers and paint. • Using the key vocabulary to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.
RE	Enquiry: What holds communities together? We will be continuing to think about our key question this half term and moving on from discussing what it means to belong to a faith group and the responsibilities they have, to

	be able to discuss if and how different people and groups can live together in the same community both locally and nationally. We will compare what these groups have in common and what they can all bring to community life.
PSHE	Our first PSHE unit is Living in the Wider World. During this term we will focus on developing understanding of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of rules and laws; rights, freedoms and responsibilities, • How the internet is used; Assessing information online (reliable sources, safe exploration of information available online, regulating use and selecting positive sources of information), • Different jobs and skills; job stereotypes; setting personal goals.
Computing	This half term in Computing we will be looking at the unit about emails. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about different methods of communication. • To be able to open and respond to an email using an address book. • To learn how to use email safely. • To add an attachment to an email. • To explore a simulated email scenario.
French	In French lessons this half term we will continue to learn the names of different instruments and then move onto the names of the seasons along with key features of each of the seasons in French.

PE Lessons

Please note that our class PE days are **Wednesday and Thursday**. Where possible, PE lessons will take place outside so as the weather cools, please ensure that autumn/winter PE kit items are worn (joggers should be worn, not leggings). Uniform expectations can be found on our school website. If your child has had their ears pierced and is unable to take the earrings out for PE, please provide microporous tape for them to cover their earlobes with.

Reading and Homework Expectations

Homework will continue to be set weekly online using Google Classroom where an English or Maths task is set on alternate weeks. The children are now familiar with the set up to this homework and we have overcome any teething problems. Please encourage the children to show their working out and explain their reasoning when needed.

Daily reading still plays a big part of your child's development in Year 3 and 4. Please spend time listening to your child read, discussing and asking them questions about what they have read at least five times per week. As your child progresses through our reading scheme, there are also comprehension questions or tasks to complete located at the back of the book they are reading. Please complete your child's reading record and ensure this is sent into school daily so we can monitor how regularly they are reading at home and can track their progress towards achieving their reading awards. Reading books will continue to be changed on a Monday.

Alongside their reading, please remember to encourage your child to practise their spellings both on Spelling Shed and those in their Spelling Passports. These will be tested again towards the end of the half term. We were thrilled to hand out some golden house point tokens last term for those who had successfully learnt all the spellings in their Passports.

It is really important that children practise their times tables and division facts regularly to achieve fluency and rapid recall. The earlier they start with this, the easier it will be for them, so the following applies to children in Year 3 as well as Year 4.

To ensure that your child makes expected progress, they should:

- **Continue daily practice of Times Tables Rockstars.**
- **Complete a minimum of 5 'Soundcheck' games each week on Time Tables Rockstars.** The 'Soundcheck' option is perfect practise for the Year 4 Statutory Times Tables check which will take place in June. Your child's log in information can be found on a label on the inside cover of their reading record.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries, questions or concerns. I will be happy to help.

Mrs Waldron