



Year 3 and 4 Class Newsletter Spring Term 1 2024 – 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 4,

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and a well-deserved rest. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your lovely gifts; it is very kind and very much appreciated.

We are very much looking forward to this new half term and all the exciting opportunities that we have coming up. I would like to remind you about our trip to the Living Rainforest on the 29th January. If you have any questions about this please ask.

Spring Term 1 Curriculum

Over the next six 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 ensuring our writing is grammatically correct by making sure we are using the writing skills we have learnt correctly and effectively. Through the texts below we will look at deepening our understanding of using appropriate nouns and pronouns, how we can use them effectively and not repetitively. We will also continue to develop the skill of organising our ideas into paragraphs. This will be done through drafting our work to ensure we group our ideas into themes. We will then use the skills we have learnt when using conjunctions and adverbs to express time when writing a recount.</p> <p>Our three texts this half term are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction: Character description based on The Princess and the Pea • Fiction: Fairy-tales, The Princess and the Pea • Non-fiction: Recount of our trip
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>Matilda by Roald Dahl</i> – Within this fiction text we will identify main ideas drawn from a key paragraph or page and summarise these events and then begin to record a short summary of key parts or chapters/texts. • <i>Revolt Rhyme: Cinderella by Roald Dahl</i> – In this poetry text we will identify how language, structure and presentation can contribute to meaning and discuss words and phrases that capture the reader’s interest and imagination.
Mathematics	<p>During this half term, our maths lessons will be completing our multiplication and division units. 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</p> <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. • Write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division using the multiplication tables that they know, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit numbers, using mental strategies then progressing to formal written methods. <p>Year 4</p> <p>Within multiplication and division, Year 4 pupils will be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12. • Recognise and use factor pairs and commutativity in mental calculations. • Multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written layout. • Solve problems involving multiplying and adding, including using the distributive law to multiply two-digit numbers by one digit, integer scaling problems and harder correspondence problems such as n objects are connected to m objects.
Science	<p>This half term we will be looking at the topic 'Animals including humans' and in particular the human body and digestive system covering the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. • identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.
Geography	<p>Our next unit in Geography is 'Rainforests'. In this unit will be locating and identifying areas of the world containing rainforests. We will use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to locate the countries and describe their features in the context of rainforests. This will then lead onto looking at the four layers of a rainforest, the animals that live there and being able to compare the Amazon rainforest and a UK forest. This will all link to our trip to the Living rainforest.</p>
Design and Technology	<p>In D&T this half term we will be linking our learning to our Geography and Science units by looking at an 'Edible Garden'. When do this we will look at the following skills and ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the correct proportions of a balanced meal. • Be able to plant and care for a variety of ingredients so they yield produce. • Measure ingredients to the nearest millilitre accurately and assemble or cook ingredients.
RE	<p>Our RE lessons this term will focus on the key question "What do our celebrations show about what we think is important in life? (Festivals)". When discussing this question, we will look at the following Christian celebrations of Epiphany, Holy Week and Easter and the move onto think about a selection of festivals celebrated by other religions including the Hindu festival of Diwali, the Islamic festival of Eid and the Jewish festivals of Shabbat and Passover. As we go through we will compare each of these festivals and reflect on their importance.</p>
PSHE	<p>Our first PSHE unit is Relationships. During this term we will focus on developing understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and friendships. What makes a family; the features of a family. • Safe relationships. Personal boundaries; safely responding to others; the impact of hurtful behaviour. • Respecting ourselves and others. Recognising respectful behaviour; the importance of self-respect; courtesy and being polite.

PE Lessons

Please note that our class PE days are **Wednesday and Thursday**. Where possible, PE lessons will take place outside so please ensure that winter PE kit items are worn; 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 (this can be kept in their tray at school).

Reading and Homework Expectations

Homework will continue to be set weekly online using Google Classroom each Thursday. This is to be completed online and this can be done at home by the following Thursday or within homework club, which is available to all children on a Tuesday lunchtime.

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 each week as part of their homework.**
- **Complete a minimum of 4 '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 login information can be found on a label on the inside cover of their reading record.

Spelling shed is also another important tool that should be used aid childrens practise of their spelling. Again these are set weekly and should be accessed as frequently as possible throughout the week.

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 be changed on a Monday along with their library book should they wish to change this.

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
Year 3 and 4 Class Teacher