



## Year 3 and 4 Class Newsletter

### Summer Term 1 2023 - 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 4,

It's the summer term! How did that happen and where is the sun? I hope you had a restful Easter break and are ready for a fun-filled term.

We had a brilliant spring term and our push on spelling and handwriting has really given some fantastic results. Many children have moved onto their next spelling passport and several are now trying to consistently join their handwriting. On the back of that success, we are going to move the focus this term to multiplication tables. Please practice as much as you can at home - you can do this by making time for TT Rockstars, asking your children to 'roll their numbers' and maybe task them with teaching you the rhymes we have learnt in school. You can also help them practise by simply asking lots of quick-fire times tables questions. 2x, 5x, 10x are the easiest, then 3x 4x 6x 8x, then 7x 9x 11x 12x.

#### Curriculum

<b>English – writing</b>	<p>Our first unit of work will be narrative writing. We will be using the Anthony Browne story 'Gorilla' as our focus. It's a brilliant book but instead of rewriting the story, the children will have the creative licence to decide on their own animal toy that is going to come to life. The skills we will be focussing on are accurate sequence of plot, using fronted adverbials (e.g. Without warning... Before she took the next step...) and making sure that we use a range of punctuation correctly.</p> <p>Our next unit will be based on a Literacy Shed film called 'Soar'. This film is about a girl who builds a model airplane and during her trials and errors she meets a tiny boy whose own airplane falls to the ground right in front of her. The film has no narration or speech in it and so we will be writing the story, focussing on the correct use of speech punctuation and how to sequence the plot.</p> <p>Finally, we shall finish the term by looking at and writing riddles - I look forward to a week of giggles and don't worry, we will be sending them home for you to try and solve!</p>
<b>English – reading</b>	<p><b>VIPERS</b> (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve and Sequence)</p> <p>We will be focussing on our 'Explain' skills this term in VIPERS, with a bit of 'Retrieval' added in for good measure. We will start with an absolute classic poem 'Please Mrs Butler', which I'm sure some of you will remember from your own school days. We will be looking at how the author has created the humour and interest in the poem by their word choice and their choice of poem structure.</p>
<b>English - spelling</b>	<p>In week 1 we will be looking at our common exception words. In week 2 and 3, we'll move onto spelling words with the suffixes –sure and –ture. In week 4 and 5, we will be looking at the –sion suffix, and finally in week 6 we will be learning about the use of apostrophes to show possession e.g. Tom's coat.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>The first two weeks of this term we will be learning about decimal numbers. We already know what tenths look like now and we are going to build on this knowledge by looking at hundredths too, partitioning decimals, ordering them and making whole numbers by combining decimals.</p>

	<p>This understanding will guide us perfectly into our next unit which will be money. We will be adding and subtracting money, finding change, estimating and solving problems.</p> <p>Finally, at the end of term we will be starting our unit of time. To give you an idea these are the year group expectations so any work on time you can do at home will be really beneficial please.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Year 3 the children should be able to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes, be able to use hours and minutes as durations and solve problems with time.</li> <li>• In Year 4 the children should also be able to convert between analogue and digital time and use a 24 hour clock.</li> </ul>
<b>Science</b>	<p>We are exploring 'living things' in science this half-term. Building on our grouping and classification skills learnt during our study of rock and fossils, we will be looking at the different ways that living things, both animals and plants, may be grouped. Following this, we shall be venturing out and about in our local environment to see what species we can discover and identify, and then reflect on how environments may change and the impact that this has on living things.</p>
<b>French</b>	<p>This half-term in French we will be learning how to talk about different types of fruit along with our likes and dislikes, before moving on to talk about the weather and seasons. In all our French topics, we are not only learning the key vocabulary, but also how to ask others questions relating to the topic, and building up our knowledge of French phonics to support our speaking, reading, listening and writing skills.</p>
<b>History Geography</b>	<p>We will start the term by finishing our 'Roman' topic before moving onto Geography. We will learn about Boudicca's rebellion and the Battle of Colchester and then explore the legacy of Romans on life today.</p> <p>In our Geography lessons we will be developing our skills as a geographer by using aerial photographs and maps to identify human and physical features of a locality. We will then be using these skills to make comparisons between contrasting localities - Twyford and surrounding villages, Milton Keynes and Sheffield.</p>
<b>Design and Technology</b>	<p>Building on their learning in Science earlier this year, the children will be applying their knowledge about electrical circuits in a purposeful way by designing and making a battery operated light which will be controlled by a homemade switch. The children will decide upon the design criteria by considering who will use it, where it will be used and what for. Once the products have been made, the children will then complete a detailed evaluation of their final product.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>Our question in RE for the summer term is: 'Are places of worship really needed?'</p> <p>We will begin by thinking about important places to us and how they make us feel. Then we will try to identify what it is about those places that makes them special. Following this we will look at Jewish synagogues, Islamic mosques and hopefully take a trip along the road to visit the United Reform Church in Twyford and draw some comparisons between it and St Mary's Church. We will end the half term by reviewing our understanding so far of the question and drawing comparisons between these different Abrahamic places of worship.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>In computing, we will be learning all about inputting instructions and commands into Logo. We will be making the screen turtle go forwards, backwards, turn, pen up and pen down etc. and having lots of fun making a variety of shapes on the screen using what is basically coding.</p>
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>During this term our PSHE lessons will focus on Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing. We will explore the factors which contribute to a balanced and healthy life including good physical and mental habits such as exercising regularly, eating healthily and having a happy</p>

	and positive attitude. We will discuss what 'good physical health' means and how we can identify and treat common illnesses. Finally, we will explore the importance of oral hygiene and how we can maintain good dental health.
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### **Swimming/PE Lessons**

As you know we start swimming on Wednesday morning. Please make sure the children come to school **wearing their swimwear** under their PE school uniform. They will then only need their swimming hat, a towel and underwear in their swimming bags. All hair must be tied up for their lesson. This will be their PE lesson on the Wednesday.

Their second PE lesson will be on Thursday as usual. As the weather gets warmer (fingers crossed) please make sure you send your children into school with hats and sun cream as their lessons will be outside.

If your child has had their ears pierced and is unable to take the earrings out for PE, please provide microporous tape for the children to cover their earlobes with.

### **Water Bottles**

Please send your child to school each day with **fresh water, not juice, in their water bottles**. We encourage the children to drink regularly throughout the day so if their bottle needs topping up, then we can do this for them.

### **Reading and Home Learning Expectations**

Thank you for your continued effort with homework. Please can I remind you that children should be accessing Spelling Shed three times a week at home. It only needs to take five minutes each time and is really easy to do using the app or the website. Year 4 children should also be going on TT RockStars two times a week. I'm really pleased to say we have seen significant progress from some children through playing the games regularly.

As always if you have any queries or need to speak to use about something, please let us know on the gate or via an email and we'll help in any way we can.

Kindest regards,  
Mrs Clarke  
Year 3 and 4 Class Teacher