

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, may we wish you a very Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome, back to school, after what we hope has been a wonderful Christmas break. We hope you have all had a great rest and are enjoying the start of this new term.

Below, we have outlined information regarding staffing, routines, homework as well as the curriculum activities and events planned for this spring term.

Teaching Staff

Year 3 - Miss Cork

Year 3/4 - Mr Cunha

Year 4 - Mr Sutton

Teaching assistants - Mrs Carney, Mrs Cawley and Mrs Henshaw

Our Curriculum this term.

English - We will begin the term looking at the text 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister. We will use this text to inspire us to write our own fantasy stories based on a fable. We will be focussing on using correct punctuation, tense, subordination, and co-ordinating conjunctions accurately in our writing. The second text we will be using is 'Big Blue Whale' by Nicola Davies. From this we will be writing a persuasive information article for the protection of the blue whale. Weekly Active Reading lessons will be on 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes focusing on retrieval, vocabulary and inference skills.

Maths - We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme - 'Power Maths'. Power Maths is a whole class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help teachers nurture confidence in maths. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that all children can achieve. It's built around a child-centred lesson design that models and embeds a growth mind-set approach to maths and develop skills in fluency, reasoning, investigation, and problem solving. We will be covering units on: Multiplication and Division, length and perimeter, fractions, decimals (year 4) mass and capacity (year 3).

Science - Our topics this term are Sound and Electricity. In Sound, the children will be discovering how sounds are made, associating them with something vibrating and with Electricity they will identify conductors and insulators as well as constructing a simple circuit. As scientists, we will plan enquiries and use appropriate techniques and apparatus to conduct tests. We will record and present our own findings and give conclusions based on scientific evidence.

D.T. - Linked with our Active Read lessons, we will create an electronic poster of the Iron Man using a variety of electrical components.

Art - We will explore artwork from a particular artist, movement or era. We will then explore how we can use shape and colour to simplify elements, inspired by the Cut-outs of Henri Matisse. Using first collage, then simple printmaking methods, we will play with positive and negative shapes and spaces to create meaningful compositions in response to the original artworks we looked at.

History - We will initially continue our unit on the Stone Age before moving on to the Iron Age this term. We will study what key events occurred during this pre-history, what foods were introduced during this era, how and what the new discovery of metal was used for and how settlements adapted.



Music - We will lay and perform melodies using stave notation, in two or more parts. We will use music technology and begin to make decisions about the structure of our compositions. We will read, combine and perform known rhythmic notation with letter names to create short phrases using 5 pitches. Year 3 will continue to practice the glockenspiel.

ICT - We will continue to revise the importance of E-Safety as well as using our data handling skills to produce our own sorting diagrams. This Story Graph will illustrate the characters' feelings and the plot lines of a narrative. In the second half of the term, we will be developing our Video skills by creating an iMovie audio description, writing our own scripts before recording the voice over.

RE - In the Spring term, the children will continue their learning on Christianity from Autumn. They will answer the question, 'What part do Christians believe the Holy Spirit plays in welcoming into the church community?'



French - As Linguists, we will listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding. We will also explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhyme and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. Through conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others. Alongside this, we will present ideas and information orally. This will be done through the appreciation of stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.

PSHE - In our PSHE learning we will learn about Fairtrade and how we can support it. We will take part in internet safety day to extend our learning about safe and appropriate internet use. We will look at charities and explore how they can support places where health care is limited. We will consider the importance of community and animal care and how hope can get use through difficult times. We will also look at equal opportunities. We will explore the importance of families and look at different types of families and learn about respecting those differences.



We will continue with the mental and emotional wellbeing programme 'My Happy Mind'. Once a week, all children in school will continue to participate in activities linked to five modules - the brain, celebrate, appreciate, relate, and engage. Each module introduces a new set of content and habits to help children build resilience, self-esteem, and confidence.



PE sessions

A PE/Games kit is required on the following days.

Monday	Outdoor games	Year 3/4
Tuesday	Outdoor games	Year 3
Wednesday	Outdoor games	Year 4
Thursday	Indoor PE	All classes



PE kit - house t-shirt, dark jogging bottoms. (This can be left in school in a named bag.)

Games kit - dark jogging bottoms, house T-shirt, trainers, and spare socks. A carrier bag is useful to bring this occasionally wet and dirty kit home.

For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Exciting upcoming events to look out for.

- Friday 3rd February - Number Day.
- Monday 13th February - Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 14th February - Parents' Evening
- Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day
- 13th March - Science Week - themed 'Connections'



Lost Property

Please add names to all your children's clothing and equipment so that if lost they can be returned to them.

Homework

Maths and English/topic homework will be issued on Fridays. We would like this to be completed and submitted by the following Wednesday.



Maths homework will be issued online using the Mathletics website. In English/topic, children will receive homework to support tasks completed in class. This will be set on Google Classroom. They will also receive a spelling list that should be learnt weekly. Children should spend an additional 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks.

Teachers expect children to take around twenty minutes for each English/topic and maths homework to be completed. If your child is struggling to complete the allocated piece within this time, please let us know. We do understand that many children take part in activities outside school, and this is the reason we have tried to provide a fair and reasonable system so that children can continue to enjoy these clubs without too much homework pressure.

In addition, we would expect children to read on a regular basis. We still believe it is a positive and beneficial exercise for children to read aloud to parents/ grandparents/older brothers and sisters at home. Even at this stage, it is extremely helpful if you encourage discussion about the plot, characters and what may happen in the story.

Accelerated Reading

As part of our continued commitment to raising standards and progress in reading, all pupils have a reading book, which is part of the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Accelerated Reading is a scheme which levels all reading books within school. Once your child has read their book, they will be able to take an online quiz which will consolidate their understanding of the text. All children will be issued with their own login so that they can complete the quiz related to their book and also monitor their progress and targets. Within lessons, children will be given targets and rewards to maintain their focus and continue to engage their love of reading. Look out for your child's bookmark and if there are any problems, please do let us know.



Our School Rule

We should smile, be friendly and care for one another
Be well mannered and polite
Speak the truth
Be fair
Treat each other with respect and how you would like to be treated
Be the best you can be

School Values



Naturally, we expect a high standard of behaviour and attitude as it is important to achieve a happy and purposeful classroom.

Communication:

As always you are welcome to contact the school, via email, dojo, phone call, if you have any questions or queries.



If you feel that you could offer help in school in any way, for example by hearing children read, enriching a topic or displays please do get in touch.

This term, like always, is a busy one. We do appreciate your continued help and support.

(LKS2 team)