



Spring 2024 Bluebells Class Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! We hope you've had a wonderful Christmas and were able to recharge. We're excited for the new term, and below are some reminders, useful information and an overview of our learning for Spring 2024.

Staff

Teachers: Mrs Gaskell (Monday) and Miss Maddocks (Tuesday to Friday).

Teaching Assistants across Lower Key Stage Two: Miss Goodwin, Mrs Harding, Mrs Smith, Mrs Hart, Mrs Jones and Mrs Dillon

General Information

- All equipment needed for lessons will be provided (pens, pencils, felt tips etc.) so there is no need for individual pencil cases to be brought in
- Morning tuck will be available to purchase or children can bring their own **healthy** snack, ideally fruit
- Individual reading books should be brought into school every day. Reading records should also be brought in every day and will be reviewed weekly. Please also remember that you and your child can record how many pages they have read – every page counts towards the 100 Reads Challenge! More information about this can be found in their reading records
- Your child will need a named water bottle in school each day. Please could we ask that only water is brought into school, rather than juice – thank you

PE

On your child's PE day, they should come to school in their kit and remain in it for the whole day. Our **PE kit is red school logo PE shirt/plain red t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and pumps/trainers. Football kit should not be worn.** Our usual days for PE this term will be Monday and Wednesday. Swimming lessons for Bluebells have come to an end, but will resume next year with the aim that every child can swim 25m by the time they leave Year 6.

Expected Homework

- Reading – please read at home as often as possible and complete the reading record including how many pages they have read. Your child will either have a reading scheme book or a book of their choice, if they are a free-reader
- Maths homework – a weekly/fortnightly task will be posted onto the class Homework page of the website, set on MyMaths or sent home each Wednesday. This will usually be an online task, a game or a times table activity

Optional homework

- There is also a menu of termly optional homework tasks on the class web pages. All activities are linked to our learning in class so it's a great way for your child to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects we're covering. Please encourage your child to complete these tasks and they can bring in their work to celebrate on a Wednesday. Alternatively, you can email me any work they have produced at home if this is easier

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Please contact the office via admin@tarporleyce.cheshire.sch.uk to arrange a time for a phone call or a meeting. We're looking forward to welcoming Bluebells back to school after the Christmas break. They achieved so much last term, and we know this term will be just as successful.

A big thank you for your continued support,
Helen Maddocks and Jo Gaskell



SPRING 2024 Bluebells Years 3 and 4



English

We have a books-based approach to the teaching of writing and we choose books that will inspire, entertain and excite our children. We ask that you don't read these books in advance as it's lovely to discover them together. It's also important that we can develop their prediction skills which is difficult if they already know the book!

Core text for Spring 1: *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura which will inspire our own historical narrative

Core text for Spring 2: *Big Blue Whale* by Nicola Davies on which we will base our persuasive and non-chronological writing

In Guided Reading, we'll be reading the classic *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, and in Spring 2, we'll read the story *This Morning I met a Whale* by Michael Morpurgo.

Maths Year 3

Multiplication and Division

Measure – Perimeter

Fractions

Measure – Money

Maths Year 4

Multiplication and Division

Measure: Area, Perimeter and Length

Fractions and Decimals

Measure – Money

Religious Education – Islam

Answering the Big Question *How do Muslims worship?* will be the focus of our learning this term. Our lessons will explore:

What can you remember about Islam?

Who spoke to Muhammad in the cave?

What do Muslims believe about angels?

Where do Muslims worship?

How is art used to express belief in Islam?

How do Muslims prepare to pray?

Religious Education – Judaism

We will look at the Big Question *How do Jews demonstrate their faith through their communities?* and will explore this by thinking about:

What happens at a Synagogue?

What happens at the Pesach (Passover)?

What is Sukkot?

The giving of the Torah

Science – Rocks and Soils (Spring 1)

We'll learn to compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties, describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock and recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Geography

Where does our food come from?

In Geography this term, we will be

- looking at the distribution of the world's biomes and mapping food imports from around the world;
- learning about trading fairly, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire and cocoa beans;
- exploring where the food for the children's school dinners comes from;
- and the argument of 'local versus global'

History

Would you prefer to live in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?

Our learning in History will focus on looking at the chronology of mankind as children are introduced to Britain's story. We will use archaeological evidence to find out about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

Art and Design

Cloth, Thread, Paint

We will explore how artists combine media to create work in response to landscape and will use acrylic and thread to make a painted and stitched piece.

Design and Technology

We will be focusing on levers to design, make and evaluate a product.

Computing

Pupils will develop their typing skills before writing for a purpose and publishing their writing using an online publishing tool.

Music

In our Music lessons, we'll be learning a song/rap about bullying and will learn about the interrelated dimensions of music through games, singing and composing. We will also explore the song *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers where we'll focus on pitch, rhythm, pulse, singing and playing instruments.

PE

Our PE this term will focus on gymnastics, dance and creating symmetry, and competitive games where we'll be developing our striking and fielding skills.

How you can support at home...

- While we request that you avoid the core English texts (so we don't get any spoilers!), any reading or further research you can support your child with, which we call pre-learning, will be of huge benefit. We'd almost always favour the local library over online research, but any additional learning linked to any of our topics would be great.
- Supporting your child with their quick recall of multiplication and related division facts will make so many areas of maths easier and will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their learning. Pupils have to know all facts to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. There are links to games and activities on our class pages to support with this.
- All the activities on the optional homework menu (which you can download from our class pages) link with the learning taking place during the autumn term. We'd recommend encouraging your child to choose from the menu – the activities can be done in any order and at any point during the term – so they have opportunities to deepen their understanding and practise their skills.