



Achieving the best

Hayes End
South Petherton
Somerset TA13 5AG
Tel: 01460 240172
E-mail: office@southpethertonjuniorschool.co.uk
Website: www.southpetherton-jun.somerset.sch.uk
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER of South Petherton Schools Partnership
Mrs Shan Weston B.A. Hons, PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

Friday 16th January

Dear Parents and Carers of McAllister Class,

Welcome Back!

Happy New Year and welcome back after the Christmas break! The children have settled brilliantly into our routines and have really gelled as a class – it's such a joy to see how supportive and enthusiastic they are with one another. I absolutely love teaching them and feel so lucky to have this wonderful group.

They are already showing how hard-working and eager they are, and I can't wait to get going with all the exciting learning we have planned this term. The progress they've made so far has been incredible, and I know they're ready to push forward even more. Their enthusiasm, determination, and positive attitude make me so proud every single day. Here's to another fantastic term full of learning, creativity, and smiles!

Curriculum News

English

This half term, we are diving into poetry! We will begin by learning and performing Roger McGough's poem "*Poetry Pie*". Children will also analyse a range of poems and create their own, inspired by the work of Allan Ahlberg. In the second part of the term, we will use the stunning picture book *Flotsam* as inspiration for our narrative writing, encouraging creativity and descriptive language.

Maths

Our focus will be on area, as well as taking multiplication and division further by using formal written methods. We will continue to build fluency and problem-solving skills, with a strong emphasis on reasoning and applying knowledge in different contexts. Times tables remain a key priority, especially for Year 4 pupils preparing for the Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term. Please encourage regular practice on Times Table Rock Stars at home.

Science

Our topic is Living Things and Their Habitats. We will explore different types of animals and plants, including invertebrates, and investigate how they adapt to their environments. Weather permitting, we'll get outdoors for hands-on learning!

Art

We will study the work of J.M.W. Turner, focusing on his dramatic paintings of coasts and stormy seas. This links beautifully with our Geography topic and will inspire our own creative pieces using different types of pastels.

Geography

Our topic is Coasts. We will learn about coastal features, cliff formation, and the impact of tourism. To bring this learning to life, we will visit Lyme Regis—and enjoy an ice cream by the sea!

PSHE

Through the Jigsaw programme, our theme is Dreams and Goals. We'll discuss resilience, how to manage disappointment when things don't go as planned, and the importance of a growth mindset for future success.



Religion and Worldviews

We will learn about Islam, exploring how festivals and family life are central to the lives of Muslims.

Computing

Our focus is Programming using Logo. Children will learn how to use numbers and codes to instruct the turtle to create shapes—Logo doesn't understand words, so precise coding is key!

Music

This term, Year 4 will begin learning the recorder, while Year 3 will explore a variety of instruments, including glockenspiels and chime bars.

PE

Swimming will take place for Year 3 in the first half of the term, and Year 4 in the second half. In school, children will also learn dance and hockey.

French

Quel âge as-tu? Children dive deeper into basic phonics for numbers to 12, making predictions about spellings and learning to write individual words. Using their new knowledge of numbers, pupils build upon their bank of simple questions and responses by giving their age as well as saying what their name is. They revise knowledge of family members and build on this to use of the 3rd person il/elle a __ ans.

General Reminders

- **PE Days:** Tuesdays and Thursdays – please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit.
- **School Houses:** Barrington (Blue), Hestercombe (Red), Lytes Cary (Yellow), Montacute (Green).
- **Hair:** Long hair must be tied back for safety and hygiene.
- **Snacks & Water:** Children may bring a healthy snack (fruit or veg) for break and should have a water bottle to refill during the day.
- **Weather:** Please make sure your child has a waterproof coat and, when colder, gloves and a warm hat.
- **Reading:** Please listen to your child read daily and record this in their reading log. They are also welcome to choose an additional book for enjoyment.
- **Homework:**
 - **Times Tables:** Regular practice on **Times Table Rock Stars** is expected.
 - **Spellings:** Weekly spelling lists will be sent home and are available on **Spelling Frame**.
 - **Year 4:** Additional times tables homework to prepare for the MTC.
- **Logins:** All website/app login details are stuck inside reading records.
- **Homework books and reading records must be handed in on Monday morning where they will be checked and will be returned the same day with new homework and spellings inside.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via the school office or catch me at the start/end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support, I'm looking forward to another fantastic half term of learning and fun!

Miss Dunn

Class Teacher

