



Cedar and Beech - Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Autumn 2022

Welcome to Year 3/4,

English

This term, we shall be exploring the English curriculum through book-based learning. Cross-curricular links will be made to enable children to further explore the texts and make connections across all areas of the curriculum. Explicit grammar, punctuation and spelling skills will be taught in context in order to be applied purposefully. Children will develop their reading and comprehension skills through whole class guided reading sessions alongside their independent reading. Children are encouraged to read as often as possible at home and suggested questions to encourage discussion about what they have read are in the back of their reading record books.

Mathematics

Each day will start with Early Bird Maths; this is an independent activity that is completed between 8.40 and 9.00am so it is important for the children to be in school promptly. Early Bird Maths includes some pre-teach activities that allow the children to become familiar with maths topics and language before these are taught discretely. Maths will be taught daily, primarily following the White Rose Maths programme and will include a blend of practical activities and regular practice of basic skills. This combination of activities is designed to refine skills, support individual needs and build up a wealth of understanding, confidence, independence and competence through a stepped approach using concrete, pictorial and abstract processes. Regular assessments will inform further learning and where necessary small groups or 1:1 support will be available. The emphasis will, as usual, be principally on number skills, but the children will also practise using and applying their mathematical knowledge.

Later this year, the Year 4 children will take an external test to assess their knowledge of times table and related division facts, so we will be practising these regularly. The Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) online learning platform replicates much of the external test set up so it is important for the children to use this resource regularly.

Science

We aim to link as much of the children's learning to the topic as we can, including science. We will be looking at *States of Matter* to begin with. The children will be encouraged to investigate and draw conclusions; evaluate; and record and represent their findings.

Geography and History

Cross curricular links will be made with English and art and design. Children will develop their knowledge about the world around them and past events and people. They will develop enquiry skills to think like historians while investigating the Vikings in autumn term and this will be reinforced by a trip to the Ancient Technology Centre where the children will be given a hands-on experience of life in the Viking era.

Spanish

The children will learn key words and phrases that are used in everyday Spanish life as well as exploring some of the customs and traditions of Spanish culture. This will often be taught through games, role play, songs and art activities as well as question / answer routines and some written work. Topics will include greetings, family, directions etc. and classroom vocabulary will also be taught.

ICT

ICT continues to be an integral part of the school day and the children will be developing and furthering their skills in the use of iPads and PCs. They'll develop their coding skills through practice, creating character actions and games. The iPads will be used to record some planning for writing and for research and investigation. Often, Seesaw is also used to display learning activities for the children to work from. Internet safety is central to all of the online learning and this will be reinforced at all times as the children learn about how to keep themselves safe when using the internet.

Art and Design Technology (DT)

Art and Design work will be inspired by our history topic this half term, enabling the children to become immersed in the topic. The children will investigate and develop the skills needed for a range of techniques and find out about the work of significant artists so that they can create work in a style similar.

PE and Games

This term we will be doing fundamental skills for indoor PE, such as balance, running and turn taking. Our outdoor PE sessions will be based around ball skills and taking part in invasion games such as basketball and netball. PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children will need to have a PE kit in school and this will be sent home each half term to be washed.

As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has the appropriate outdoor PE kit. Please clearly label all items of PE kit and school uniform, so if anything goes astray it can be quickly returned to its owner. If your child is unable to remove and replace their earrings independently, surgical tape will need to be provided from home.

PSHE

At the start of this term, we will be focusing on 'Being Me In My World' and, after half term, we will explore the theme of 'Celebrating Difference'. 'I Can Problem Solve' sessions will regularly take place, promoting discussions about and reflections on the social problems children may encounter.

Religious Education

During this term, we will continue to follow the 'Discovery' element of the RE curriculum and focus on the question 'How important is sharing to Sikhs?' and, after half term, we will move onto the question 'What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?'

Music

Using a wide range of percussion, keyboards, guitars and other instruments, we will learn about a variety of musical styles and genres.

Homework

Homework will be set on Seesaw once a week on a Monday and will be due in on a Friday. It will include a reading comprehension activity, weekly spellings for a test each Friday and times tables practise on TTRS. If you have any issues completing the homework on Seesaw or TTRS, please let the class teacher know.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, in person or through the school office, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. We look forward to an exciting year of learning!

Mrs Garton (Beech Class Teacher) Mrs Heydon (Cedar Class teacher Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Ms Kellaway (Cedar Class teacher Thursday and Friday)