



## Cedar and Beech – Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Spring 2023

Welcome to Year 3/4,

### **English and Geography**

This term we will be linking our English writing to our geography topic. We will be following the Collins Connected Geography to support our topic work following the question-based enquiries and supplementing the children's learning with ideas of their own interest. Our question for this term is "Why are jungles so wet and deserts so dry?"

In English, we will cover a range of genres including writing to persuade, balanced arguments, non-chronological reports and narrative stories with different plots and grammatical features. The children will have the opportunity to research different aspects of our topic including deforestation for their persuasive writing and balanced arguments.

To support their learning in English, we will be focusing on the book *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell. If you wish your child to have their own copy of this book to continue reading or use in class, it is available used on [Amazon](#). We will start by using the novel in our guided reading, completing whole class guided reading sessions looking at vocabulary, retrieval, explanation and inference skills. We will then continue to read the book for pleasure at the end of each day.

### **Mathematics**

Each day will start with Early Bird Maths: this is an independent activity that is completed between 8.40 and 8.50 am 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 discreetly. 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 online learning platform replicates much of the external test set up so it is important for the children to use this platform regularly.

### **Science**

Science will be taught weekly and we will be investigating all living things. The children will be taught to recognise classification keys, how living things can be grouped in different ways and how environments can change over time.

Following this, children will focus on states of matter, comparing different materials and grouping them in different ways and identifying that materials can change when heated and cooled and the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

Opportunities to utilise English reading, writing and research skills when introducing report and factual writing will be exploited.

### **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 the current topics and the class guided reading book. The children will investigate and develop the skills needed for a range of techniques and find out about the work of significant artists, such as Henri Rousseau, so that they create work in a style similar to the artists.

In DT, they will follow the process of plan, design, make and evaluate when creating a bean bag dart frog.

## **PE and Games**

For indoor PE this term, we will be studying yoga and gymnastics, looking at performing static shapes as part of floor and apparatus routines. Outdoor PE will focus on netball and invasion games.

Please be reminded that PE and Games will be on Tuesday and Wednesday and children will need to have a PE kit in school and this will be sent home each half term to be washed. It is important during the colder weather that children have suitable outdoor PE kit. If your child has their ear pierced, their earrings will need to be removed on PE days. If they cannot do this independently, please remove them before school. If in exceptional circumstances they are unable to be removed, you must provide surgical tape for your child to cover them.

## **PSHE**

At the start of this term, we will be focusing on "Dreams and Goals" and after half term, we will explore the theme of "Healthy Me" through weekly Jigsaw lessons. 'I Can Problem Solve' sessions will regularly take place, promoting discussions about and reflections on the social problems children may encounter. We hope to be able to take part in a residential visit to Leeson House in Swanage - more details to follow.

## **Religious Education**

During this term, we will continue to follow the 'Discovery' element of the RE curriculum and focus on the question 'What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?' Then as we approach Easter 'Is forgiveness always possible?'

## **Music**

Using the Charanga scheme as a resource as well as a wide range of percussion, keyboards and guitars, we will learn about a variety of musical styles and genres. Year 4 children will be taking part in the Dorset Musicianship Programme and will have a lesson each week as they begin to learn to play a ukulele.

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 another exciting term of learning!

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