



Cedar and Beech – Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Summer 2023

Welcome to Year 3/4,

English

This term we will be linking our English writing to our history topic. We will be using the Collins Connected history scheme 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 "How and why has my local area changed?" Specifically, looking at the history of the railways in Britain and their growth and decline in Dorset and Blandford.

In English, we will explore a range of genres: writing a first-person narrative; poetry with different plots; non-fiction texts; persuasive writing; newspaper reports. To support their learning in English, we will be focusing on the book 'Dorset Folk Tales for Children' and the short cartoon 'Spy Fox'.

History and Geography

Over the summer term, we will be looking at the history of railways and linking this to the old railway in Blandford for our local history study.

Mathematics

Each day will start with either Early Bird Maths or Times Tables Rockstars: these are independent activities that are completed between 8.30 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 themes are taught discreetly. Times Tables Rockstars gives children the opportunity to practise and learn their times tables. This is especially important for the Year 4 children as they will take part in an external test to assess their knowledge of times table and related division facts in early June.

Maths will be taught daily, primarily following the White Rose Maths programme and the Mastery approach. Lessons 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.

Science

Science will be taught weekly and we will be investigating light. 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 electricity. 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, numbers, day of the week and months of the year 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 will 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 reading book. The children will investigate and develop the skills needed for a range of techniques for using charcoals and will use this to sketch a bridge in the local area.

In DT, they will follow the process of plan, design, make and evaluate when creating a bridge which will be tested under varying weights.

PE and Games

For indoor PE this term, our focus will be invasion games and dance, looking at individual movement and group performance and the Year 4 children will also be swimming. Outdoor PE will focus on athletics and cricket.

Please be reminded that PE and Games will be on Wednesday and Thursday 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 "Relationships" and after half term, we will explore the theme of "Changing 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. Later this term, we will be going on a residential trip to Leeson House in Swanage.

Religious Education

During this term, we will continue to follow the 'Discovery' element of the RE curriculum and focus on the question 'Could Jesus really heal people?' and 'Would visiting the river Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu?'

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.

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)