



Cedar and Beech - Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Summer 2024

Welcome back - We hope you had an enjoyable and restful Easter holiday and are looking forward to our Summer term ahead.

English

This half term we are very excited to be looking at poetry and performing poetry. Alongside this, we are reading the BFG by Roald Dahl in our guided reading sessions. To start this half term, we are studying influential poets such as Michael Rosen to identify key features of poems, such as: rhyming patterns, imagery, alliteration, similes and repetition. Later into the term, we will look at writing newspaper reports, linking this to our guided reading sessions for both year groups.

After the May half term holiday, we will continue to develop our writing skills whilst looking at Dorset Folk tales, as well as immersing the children in persuasive writing linked to our Geography topic that term 'railways'.

Reading

In our whole class guided reading sessions, we will be focusing on the specific skills that enable us to read. For example: the use of inference, author's choice of vocabulary, retrieval of information and summarising a section of text four times per week. All of which develops their independence with their own reading and understanding of written information. Our guided reading sessions run on a 2 week cycle with one skill focus (as mentioned above).

To ensure that the children are reading as much as possible, we encourage you to read with your child weekly with a written comment in their reading record. Their reading record will be checked every Friday.

History and Geography

Over the summer term, we will be looking at the history of The Iron Age. We will be learning about Iron Age forts and why we had them and looking at Iron Age artefacts, thinking about what we can learn from them. We will be having an Iron Age Day to enhance our learning and thinking about Iron Age roundhouses. This topic will also consolidate our knowledge of The Bronze Age and Stone Age. In Summer 2, we will be looking at railways.

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 units and specific vocabulary before these are taught discreetly. Times Tables Rockstars allows 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.

Year 3 units for mathematics this term are: fractions, money and time. After the May half term holiday, our units will be: shapes and statistics.

Year 4 units for mathematics this term are: decimals, money and time. After the May half term holiday, our units will be: shapes, statistics, position and direction.

Maths is continuing to 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 continue to be taught weekly - our focus for this subject for the next half term is plants! If you have any amazing plants at home, please send them into seesaw or printed and we will look at them in class. We will be investigating what plants need in order for them to survive, as well as having a go at planting our own! Hopefully, these will be taken home at the end of the half term. Children will use their scientific skills to research and observe the changes in growth, to develop knowledge to link ideas and improve their vocabulary naming the different parts of a plant and what their functions are.

The following half term, children will be looking at living things, and their habitats.

French

In the first unit this term, the children will learn the four seasons of the year along with a key feature for each season in French. By the end of the unit, children will have the skills and knowledge to say which is their favourite season and why.

After half term, the children will be learning to present themselves both orally and in written form in French. In this unit, the children focus on asking questions as well as providing accurate replies. They will demonstrate a growing understanding of grammar to manipulate language and start to create sentences of their own using a range of personal details including name, age, where they live and nationality.

Computing

This half term, computing will be focused on how sound can be recorded and edited to make a recording. The children will work with a partner to make their own interview questions for a podcast style recording, including adding additional audio to the clips like sound effects. Next half term, we will be looking at programming.

Art and Design Technology (DT)

This half term, we have a DT project linked to our history topic 'The Iron Age'. From this, we will be making our own Iron Age tool replica made from paper mache! At the end of this topic, children will understand the process of paper mache and use painting to replicate the colours of actual artifacts found, belonging to this period of time. Next half term, we will be continuing with DT, designing and making a meal linking to our next geographic topic of railways.

PE and Games

On Tuesdays, the children will be doing rounders. This unit will develop their throwing, catching, batting and teamwork skills.

On Wednesdays, we will be playing dodgeball. This will develop their throwing and catching skills too.

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.

Religious Education

During this term, we will continue to follow the 'Discovery' element of the RE curriculum and focus on the question 'Do Sikhs think it is important to share?' We will talk about what sharing is, how it makes us feel and why Sikhs think it is important.

Music

Using the sing up scheme of work, we will be studying pentatonics: the five point music scale. The children will have the opportunity to listen to a variety of pieces and improvise. After half term, we will be looking at a motion picture called The Motion Horse - one of the first films ever made - and use it to inspire compositions with repeating patterns.

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 sunny and exciting term of learning!

Miss Alston (Beech Class Teacher) and Miss Fountain (Cedar Class Teacher).