



Cedar and Beech Classes – Years 3 & 4 Newsletter Autumn 2024

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 expected to read daily to a parent for at least ten minutes. It is really important that children, even once they have reached fluency, continue to read aloud and discuss texts in order to improve their understanding and comprehension.

This term, in history, children will be focusing on 'The Vikings' and therefore will be basing their writing outcomes on the following key texts: 'Viking Voyagers' and 'How to train your Dragon'. Children will be writing a diary entry and a descriptive narrative prior to half term and then a non chronological report about mythical creatures in the second half of the term. Children will continue to look at example texts (WAGOLLS), learn key SPaG for each writing outcome and then have a chance to plan and edit their own pieces of writing.

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 revision. 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. The emphasis will, as usual, be principally on number skills, but the children will also practise using and applying their mathematical knowledge. In year three, children will be covering place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division this term. Year 4 will be taught place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division during their lessons with Mrs Robinson on a Monday through to Wednesday and then will be looking at applying these skills in statistics, money and measurement with Mrs Legg on Thursday and Friday.

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

During the first half term, the children will learn about states of matter. The children will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gasses. Pupils will also observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius. They will also identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

After half term, the children will be learning about sound. They will identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating. Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. Find patterns between pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it. Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. Recognise that sound gets fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

Geography and History

During the first half of the term, the focus will be on history and 'The Vikings.' Children will explore the key question 'What did the Vikings want and how did Alfred stop them getting it?' They will explore this by looking at key dates such as the first Viking raid at Lindisfarne, learning about why the Vikings raided, the importance of the longboat design and exploration of artifacts such as Viking helmets.

After half term, we will be switching to geography, and looking at the earthquakes. Children will explore the key question 'Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others.' We will look at the movement of tectonic plates, significant earthquakes across the world map, the impact that earthquakes have and the relationship between earthquakes and volcanoes.

French

This term, we are exploring the rich and vibrant world of French music through the 'Language Angels' program, learning about traditional French instruments. The program will provide an engaging way to not only find out about French culture but also to expand their vocabulary and language skills.

After half term, we will be exploring seasons. We will be learning how to describe the unique characteristics of each season—*le printemps* (spring), *l'été* (summer), *l'automne* (autumn), and *l'hiver* (winter)—all while expanding their vocabulary and improving their pronunciation.

Computing

At Downlands Community School, we use the 'Teach Computing Curriculum'. In the first half term's unit of work, the children will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, having opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

In the second half of the term the children will develop their understanding of how digital images can be changed and edited, and how they can then be resaved and reused. They will consider the impact that editing images can have and evaluate the effectiveness of their choices.

Design Technology (DT)

This term our learning in design and technology will be inspired by our history topic. During the first lesson the children will learn about the food eaten by Vikings. Then the learning will focus on bread through evaluating existing products: deciding upon the clear goals that their bread must achieve to be successful; creating and innovating with their bread designs and finally closely following their designs to create their bread.

In the second part of the ,design and technology will link with our geography learning and the children will research and design earthquake-resistant structures and their features. They will then design and create their own building that would withstand damage caused by earthquakes.

PE and Games

This term, P.E will be on a Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. We will be doing Netball and Rugby. They will be learning the rules of both invasion games and the skills required to play each game effectively. They will continue to work on balance, coordination, hand eye coordination and foot work. After half term, they will be focusing on gymnastics and football. In gymnastics, they will focus on developing balance and body control, exploring different types of movement and core stability. In football, they will continue to develop their understanding of invasion sports and the key skills and rules of football.

Year 4 will also be attending swim sessions at Blandford Leisure Center on a Wednesday morning across the term. A letter will be sent out with details for this as not all Year 4s will be swimming at the same time; they will be split across the term.

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. We suggest that children bring their P.E kits in at the beginning of the week and take them home on a Friday to be washed. If your child is unable to remove and replace their earrings independently, please remove children's earrings prior to coming to school or surgical tape will need to be provided from home.

PSHE

This half term, our JIGSAW focus is "Being Me in My World," where pupils will be reflecting on their identities, roles, and responsibilities within our school community. They've explored the importance of self-awareness, understanding their emotions, and recognising how they can contribute positively to the world around them.

After half term, our new topic is "Celebrating Difference," where students will delve into the richness of diversity. They'll learn about embracing and respecting differences, recognising that our unique qualities make our community stronger. We're excited to see how these themes will help our students grow in empathy, understanding, and kindness as they continue their personal and social development.

Religious Education

During this term, we will continue to follow the 'Discovery' element of the RE curriculum and focus on Buddhism and the key question 'Is it possible for everyone to be happy?' Children will explore the teachings of Buddhism and the eightfold path of enlightenment as they explore this question.

After half term, they will be focusing on Christianity, deepening their understanding of The Nativity Story and exploring the question, 'What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?'

Music

Music is taught through the 'Sing Up' scheme and this half term the unit title is 'I've Been to Harlem' where the children will learn to: compose a pentatonic ostinato; sing a call-and-response song in groups, holding long notes confidently; play melodic and rhythmic accompaniments to a song and listen and identify where notes in the melody of the song go down and up. In the second half term the unit title is 'Sound Symmetry' and the children will: compose a simple song using symmetry to develop a melody, structure, and rhythmic accompaniment; sing by improvising simple melodies and rhythms and identify how the pitch and melody of a song has been developed using symmetry.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Friday and should be returned the following Friday. Each child will be given a homework book which they will stick their homework into. They will receive weekly spellings, a reading comprehension and a piece of English and maths homework. Any maths or English homework will be revision of their learning in class. They should only spend thirty minutes in total on each piece of homework although many pieces will be less than this and spellings are better to be practiced daily. If after thirty minutes the piece of homework is incomplete, do not worry - allow your child to stop where they are. If your child requires help then please encourage them to bring their book back into school and ask their class teacher. Spelling will be tested on a weekly basis on a Friday.

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!

Lower Key Stage Two Team