



Cedar and Beech - Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Spring 2026

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and you are excited for the term ahead.

English

This term, our English learning will be centred around the much-loved text *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. Using the book as inspiration, the children will explore a range of writing outcomes, including a character description, a fact file, creative 'dream-jar' poetry, and, to finish the Spring term, an extended narrative.

Throughout the unit, pupils will study Roald Dahl's distinctive writing style, analyse high-quality exemplar texts (WAGOLLS), and learn how to use a variety of grammar and punctuation features to support their own writing. They will be guided through the full writing process, with opportunities to plan, innovate, draft, edit and improve their work, building both confidence and creativity as writers.

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.

History & Geography

This term, we are looking at the History topic of the Bronze Age and answering the key question, 'What is the secret of the Standing stones?' This investigation allows pupils to understand some of the key changes that occurred in Britain towards the end of the Neolithic period of the Stone Age and the progress these brought about in society.

In the second half of the spring term, we will then move on to Geography and look at national parks. Answering the key question, 'Who are Britain's National Parks for?' The enquiry begins by exploring the location and purpose of the UK's 15 National Parks, helping pupils understand key concepts such as heritage, environment, value and economic activity. It then focuses on South West England, with case studies of Exmoor and Dartmoor to examine environmental protection, cultural heritage, tourism, and how people live and work sustainably within National Parks. Finally, pupils compare National Parks in the UK with those in the USA, focusing on the Everglades to deepen their understanding of contrasting environments.

Science

This term, the children will learn about rocks, fossils and soil, exploring how fossils are formed and recognising that soil is made from rock and organic matter. They will also study the human and animal body by learning about skeletons and how they support movement and protection, as well as identifying different types of teeth and comparing those of carnivores and herbivores. Throughout the unit, the children will develop their scientific skills by asking questions, carrying out investigations, making careful observations and measurements, and recording and presenting their findings using scientific language and evidence.

French

In the first half term, the children will learn to use action verbs in French to describe what they can and cannot do. They will recognise, recall and spell up to ten action verbs, using *je peux* and *je ne peux pas* to form positive and negative sentences. The children will begin to combine sentences using *et* (and) and *mais* (but) to make their language more complex. In the second half term, the children will learn to name and recognise up to ten fruits in French. They will begin to spell some fruit names, ask others if they like certain fruits, and say which fruits they like and dislike.

Computing

In the first half term, the children will explore early programming using start blocks and joined commands to create simple programs using Scratch. They will experiment with turn and move commands, predict outcomes, and see how changing the order of instructions affects results. The children will also learn that programming includes both code and artwork by designing backgrounds and testing algorithms. After half term, they will explore data by creating branching databases and using yes/no questions to group objects. The children will plan, structure, and test their databases, creating identification tools. They will compare information with pictograms and consider real-world applications for branching databases.

Design and Technology

In the first half term, in this unit on mechanical systems and pneumatics, the children will explore how pneumatic systems work by drawing in and compressing air. They will investigate toys and devices that use pneumatics to inspire their own design ideas, then plan, make and assemble a product that is fit for purpose. The children will use design criteria to evaluate their work and suggest improvements to their designs.

Art

After half term, the children will develop their painting skills through close observation, exploring positive and negative shapes, light and movement inspired by Impressionism. They will experiment with a range of drawing tools, paint techniques, colour and texture to create landscape paintings. The children will draw inspiration from the work of Claude Monet and local artist Paul Oakley, comparing their styles and describing similarities and differences. They will use painting to express their ideas, experiences and imagination while developing confidence in discussing artists and their work.

PE and Games

For indoor PE this term, we will be studying football, gymnastics, Netball and Dodgeball. This term, PE and Games will be on Tuesday 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 a 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.

Religious Education

During this term, we will continue to follow the ‘Discovery’ element of the RE curriculum and focus on Christianity and answering the key question, ‘Could Jesus heal people? Were these miracles or is there some other explanation?’ Children will discuss some of the things in the world that people think of as miracles and explore what miracles they think are needed in today’s society. Children will be able to explain one Christian viewpoint about one of Jesus’ healing miracles and start to say whether they believe Jesus actually healed people or not.

Then as we approach Easter, continuing with Christianity and exploring ‘What is ‘good’ about Good Friday?’, children will think about how a person may rescue/help others who are in difficult situations. Children will also start to tell you why Christians believe Jesus’ death is important and begin to reflect on whether they agree with Christian beliefs about Jesus’ death.

Music

Using the Singup scheme, we will be learning a song called 'The Doot Doot song. We will be using a variety of instruments, including scrapers, drums and glockenspiels to play alongside the song. We will learn the notes A, C and F and perform the song. Then in the second half of term, the children will be looking at the unit 'Fanfair for the common man.' Years 3 and 4 will also be practising songs for their Spring Term production.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Thank you,

Mrs Robinson & Miss Hoare