



Year 3/4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you have all had a fun filled summer holiday. We are very excited for the learning opportunities that have been carefully planned this year. Please find below a summary of Years 3/4's main learning areas for this term along with some general reminders.

English

As writers, our learning for Autumn term 1 will be planned around the text, 'Counting on Katherine' by the author Helaine Becker and in Autumn term 2 will be planned around the text, 'Leon and the Place Between' by the author Angela McAllister. Across both terms we will continue to develop our understanding of the key fundamentals: sentence structure, punctuation and composition. The children will learn how to expand noun phrases by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and prepositional phrases, use fronted adverbials and be able to choose nouns or pronouns for clarity and cohesion. Through careful consideration of composition, the children will learn how to use paragraphs to organise information and ideas around a theme (to organise and sequence more extended narrative structures). This will be achieved through a range of genres, including diaries, narratives and non-fiction and the children will also be given opportunities to apply their skills to independent writing tasks that have been designed to be personal and purposeful.

In addition to our writing lessons, we will also have four weekly spelling lessons, three explicit grammar lessons and regular handwriting practise. This is to support our learning from our English lessons and also support accelerating progress and securing fundamental knowledge.

As readers, our learning for Autumn term 1 will be planned around the text, 'The Matilda Effect' by the author Ellie Irving and in Autumn 2 will be planned around the text, 'The Night at the Frost Fair' by the author Emma Carroll. Through whole class reading lessons, we will focus our learning around three core skills: vocabulary, retrieval and inference. We will also develop our prediction skills. Children in Year 4 will be challenged further with mastering explain and summarise type questions.

Maths

As mathematicians, Year 3 and Year 4 will be taught separately to ensure the children continue to make accelerated progress. The term will begin focussing on place value in Maths and will move on to further enhance our understanding of the four main operations: addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be focusing on the four operations and fluency using pictorial, abstract and concrete methods. We will encourage the use of manipulatives. We will enhance our learning about two step reasoning problems by making it relevant and linked to real life. Year 4 will also extend their learning by developing their knowledge and skills on the concept area, in line with the White Rose Maths Scheme. There will also be a focus on learning their times tables weekly. Year 4 will have the Multiplication Table Check in June 2025.

Science

As Scientists we will learn about the unit, 'The Human Body'. We will recap our previous learning and develop our understanding of the way our bodies function. We will learn about how we breathe, digest food and how our brains coordinate this. The human body and it's functions will be our main focus, with a particular focus on the muscular system, the skeletal system and the digestive system. We also value teaching the children about scientists and this term the focus will be on Hippocrates and William Harvey.

During Autumn term 2, our science learning will continue through the teaching of the unit, 'Classification of Plants and Animals'. Here we will introduce the children to the idea of classification and classification keys. We will explore classes of vertebrates and classifications of plants. Throughout both Science units, we will ensure we develop our investigative skills through practical investigations.

P.E.

Year 3/4 will have PE sessions every **Wednesday** (Indoors – Gymnastics/Dance) **Friday** (outdoors - POSH). However, other sessions may arise throughout the week so please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at all times and are prepared for the unpredictable winter weather. **PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, black or navy shorts, black or navy joggers and an outdoor jumper** (when the weather requires it), outdoor trainers (these must be different shoes to the ones your child wears to school) and a water bottle. Dojo points will be rewarded for correct uniform. Earrings need to be removed at home, if your child cannot remove them by themselves in school. Long-hair must be tied back. PE is a statutory requirement of the National Curriculum.

Homework

Spellings will be shared on Dojo on a Monday. We expect the children to learn their spellings at home and in school. They will also be expected to use the spellings in their writing. Whilst we will not be formally assessing spellings through a test, these will be monitored informally through the curriculum and application.

For **Maths** homework, the children need to complete 15 minutes TT rock stars (<https://trockstars.com/>) three times a week. In addition, children are required to practise multiplication tables and division facts to aid rapid recall. TT Rockstars will be monitored weekly, and we will have class competition and individual celebrations around these. Times table recall is fundamental to many aspects of mathematics and being able to recall these fluently will significantly support other concepts in maths.

Reading: In Years 3/4 children need to read 3-5 times per week. Dojo points will be rewarded for 3, 4 and 5 times a week achievement. This will be checked on your child's reading day. You will be notified of this day through Dojo. When the children read at home, it should be for the equivalent of at least 10 minutes and comprehension developed through questioning. They need to complete their reading record each time they read. We would very much appreciate you listening to your child read and discussing their book with them. Parents/carers should write a comment in their book, and we request that you sign your child's reading record book too. Without a signature, the reward system cannot be awarded. Reading regularly at home will really help them to progress in reading and writing.

Your child will bring two books home: a reading for pleasure book and an Accelerated Reader book. Every time your child completes a book, they will take a quiz on AR (Accelerated Reader) where we can track their comprehension progress. Once complete, they will change their book. Your child's reading diary will let you know what their reading ZPD (level) is. Once children have quizzed 3 times at 100%, they will move up a level within their ZPD.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, thank you in advance for your continued support.

From the Year 3 and 4 team.

Sullivan Class: Mrs Smith/Mrs Duddy, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Carroll, Mrs Woollard.

Jenkins Class: Mrs Davies, Mrs Shaughnessy, Mrs Simkins.

Elgar Class: Mr Offredi, Mrs Witt, Miss Plumridge.

Year 3/4 Topic – Autumn Term 2024

Geography

As geographers, we will learn about Spatial Sense in the first half term. Here we will understand compasses, grid references, map scales and how to compare two contrasting countries geographically. During Autumn term 2, we will be learning about Mediterranean Europe, where we will explore key places. We will also explore concepts of climate, food and farming, landscapes and settlements.



History

As historians, throughout Autumn term we will learn about Ancient Greece. We will explore life in comparison to Ancient Egypt, what united the Spartans and Athenians and the relevance of Alexander the Great. We will also explore Greek Gods and Goddess, Art and Architecture, The Olympic Games and the Legacy of Ancient Greece.



Spanish

In Spanish Autumn 1 will focus on phonics and basic greetings. During Autumn 2, we will learn to name animals and give details about their diet, habitats and location.



PSHE

As citizens, we will develop our knowledge of 'Family and Friendships'. Here we will explore issues around bullying, healthy families, stereotyping, behaviour, communication and respecting differences and manners. During the second half term, we will delve into 'Health and Well-being', focusing our learning on healthy diaries, teeth, relaxation and visualisation, meaning and purpose and my role within it, breaking down problems in relation to resilience and emotions and communication.

PE

As sportsmen/women, during the Autumn term, we will have indoor and outdoor PE. During indoor PE, we will develop our knowledge and skills through gymnastics and dance. During outdoor PE, POSH will teach us skills and tactics around football

Design Technology

As designers, we will develop our designing, making and evaluating skills through sewing. We would love to share our learning with you and you will be invited in to join us. More information will follow on Dojo in due course.

Computing

In computing we will learn about e-safety throughout the unit. We will also explore the software Office 360. In Autumn 2, we will learn knowledge and skills in computer programming, focusing on a software call Scratch.

Religion and Worldviews

Being world aware, our two key questions this term are: 'What makes us human?' and 'Why is water symbolic?'. Through these questions we will explore: Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Humanist, Sikh, Muslim and Shinto

Music

As musicians we will be learning and developing our musical skills through West African calls and responses of animals. In the second half term, our focus will be Rock and Roll.



Art

As artists this term we will study the unit, 'Growing Artists'. Here we will explore, develop and experiment with visualising like an artist, texture, botanical art and abstract flowers.

