



Year 3/4 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to spring term! We hope you have all had a relaxing and festive time over the holidays. We are very excited for the learning opportunities that have been carefully planned this term. 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 spring term 1 will be planned around the text, 'Escape to Pompeii' by the author Christina Balit and in spring term 2 will be planned around the text, 'Amazing Islands' by the author Sabrina Wiess and Kerry Hyndman. 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. We will also look at different verb forms: present perfect and the progressive; as well as punctuating speech using the correct punctuation. 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, letter writing 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 spring term will be planned around the text, 'Charlotte's Web' by the author E.B.White. 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 multiplication and division. We will move on to further enhance our understanding of solving problems with 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. Year 4 will also extend their learning by developing their knowledge and skills on length and perimeter, fractions and decimals, 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, 'Ecology'. We will recap our previous learning and develop our understanding of the way our bodies function. We will learn about what all living things have in common. We will also understand the role organisms play in the food cycle and how living things interact with each other. In addition to this, we will investigate how air pollution affects living things and their eco systems and how humans have changed the environment in the local area.

During spring term 2, our science learning will continue through the teaching of the unit, 'Sound'. Here we will introduce the children to the idea of how noise is made and how we can hear it. We will explore how sound travels, the difference between high and low sounds, quiet and loud. We will then discover how vibrations in your larynx based on the sound it produces and understand how our ears hear sound.

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. In addition to this, Year 3 will have Forest School for the first half term and Year 4 will have forest school for the second half term. More information about this will follow on Dojo.

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 Harwin

Jenkins Class: Mrs Davies, Mrs Shaughnessy, Mrs Simkins, Miss Plumridge

Elgar Class: Mr Offredi, Mrs Witt, Mrs Woollard

Year 3/4 Topic – Spring Term 2025

Geography

As geographers, we will learn about Eastern Europe in the first half term. Here we will understand key places in Eastern Europe, climate, physical features, conflict and comparisons with the UK. During spring term 2, we will be learning about UK: Northern Ireland. We will explore what it is like to visit, the partition between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland, The Giant Causeway and The Marble Arch Caves.



History

As historians, throughout spring term we will learn about The Romans – Life in Ancient Rome and the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire. We will explore the monarchy and government, Pompeii, life in Ancient Rome, Roman Legacy, The Punic Wars, Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus and Pax Romana, Christianity and the Fall of the Roman Empire.



Spanish

In Spanish spring 1 will focus on fruits. During spring 2, we will learn I am able to and I know how to statements.



PSHE

As citizens, we will develop our knowledge of 'Economic Well-being'. During the second half term, we will delve into 'Safety and the Changing Body'. Some lessons for this unit will be taught separate for Year 3 and 4 due to its content.



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 Dodgeball and Fitness. During outdoor PE, POSH will teach us Hockey and Netball.

Design Technology

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

Computing

In computing we will learn about e-safety throughout the unit. We will also explore the Computational Thinking. In spring 2, we will learn knowledge and skills when investigating weather, including using our on-site weather station.

Religion and Worldviews

Being world aware, our two key questions this term are: 'What makes some texts sacred?' and 'Who was Jesus really?'. 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 Changes in Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics. In the second half term, our focus will be Haiki music

and performance.



Art

As artists this term we will study the unit, 'Ancient Egyptian scrolls. Here we will explore, develop and experiment with using different medium.

