

Year 3 and 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. This term's Key stage 2 topic is Myths and Legends, and will be starting with a visit to Warwick castle.

Teaching arrangements for KS2

The children are split into two groups each morning, with me teaching year 3 and 4 Monday to Thursday, and Mr Elson teaching years 5 and 6. On a Friday morning, the children are taught by Mr Elson, with support from Mrs Manley who teaches the French curriculum. In the afternoons the children are taught by Mr. Elson.

Literacy

In English the children will be developing their reading and writing skills through a variety of texts, some of which will be linked to the topic. They will be using these to develop their vocabulary of single words and to expand their use of phrases and sentences. When reading, they will be working to develop their inference skills and I will be encouraging them to do this by posing their own questions about texts that they read. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue to be an important aspect of the curriculum, with the children continuing to develop their use of grammatical terminology (I have attached an information sheet explaining grammatical terminology and the spellings that your child should be able to spell by the end of lower key stage 2).

During the first half term we will be working on learning the statutory year 3 and 4 spelling list, which is attached and is also in the back of the new reading records. As you will see this is quite advanced vocabulary, so the starting point is to ensure children are able to read these words fluently, have an understanding of their meaning and then to learn to spell them. They will continue to use 'look, say, cover, write, check' as a strategy but we will also explore other strategies at the same time. Hopefully, your child will be able to tell you about some of these. After the first half term, I will be sending home a weekly spelling list which your child will need to learn for an assessment at the beginning of the following week. The children will continue to use Nessy, an online learning tool, to support their learning of spellings. (If your child is not using this at home and you would like them to, please let me know and I will explain passwords etc.).

Maths

The principal focus of maths in years 3 and 4 is to ensure that the children become increasingly fluent with whole numbers and the use of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There will continue to be an emphasis placed on learning multiplication facts, so that by the end of year 4 they know all their tables by heart. In order to encourage their learning of multiplication facts, they will have a timed test every Monday morning (attached is a list of tables to learn for each week). There are quite a few websites that will help them with this task; <https://www.timestables.co.uk> is very good and one that we use in school. The children will continue to use Easimaths to support their learning.

Science

Science will remain a discrete subject, although we will make links to the topic when appropriate. During this term we will cover two science topics; 'Shining the Light' and 'This Planet Rocks'. Through these topics the children will develop scientific skills, including answering questions, making careful observations, recording data, setting up investigations and drawing conclusions.

Homework

The children should read on a daily basis and, wherever possible, be read to by an adult. The children will have a target in their reading record which will help guide your discussions about a text. They should also be learning quick recall of multiplication and corresponding division facts. After half term they will have a spelling list for each week. Occasionally, they might also have a piece of work linked to the topic or to science, which might be a written or verbal task, and details of the task will be sent home for your information.

Kind regards,

Catherine Farrell