



YEAR 3/4

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

We hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your families. The children have made a really impressive start to Year 3/4; they are already proving themselves to be enthusiastic, well organised and independent learners! We are delighted that so many of the children's uniforms and items from home are clearly labelled with their names; thank you for this. It really helps us to ensure children's items can be quickly reunited with their owners.

This term our topic is The Savage Stone Age! We will be learning about when the Stone Age was and how people lived during that time. Our learning will continue to look at inventions through the Stone, Iron and Bronze ages. We will be exploring genuine artefacts from the different periods of prehistory and exploring how these special items were used long ago.

If you have a special interest in any of these areas and would be interested in sharing your expertise with the children we would be delighted to hear from you.

Drinks and Snacks in Key Stage Two

Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle into school. They are able to refill these in school during breaks and lunchtimes and during PE. In Key Stage Two, pupils are able to bring a piece of fruit or vegetables as a snack. Alternatively, you can purchase a snack card via Parentmail; these are £3 to purchase via Parentmail and cost 20p per item of food. Your child can then purchase snack items as needed from the stall on the playground at break times.

Literacy

Our literacy this term will be inspired from two picture books. In weeks 2 -5 we will be using *The Promise* by Nicola Davies and linking that to our local environment, creating poetry, diary extracts and promises of our own. Later in the term we will explore *The First Drawing* by Mordicai Gerstein, linking with our history topic creating character descriptions, a diary entry, and a recount.

Reading

We follow the Big Reading approach that is used across the whole school. We use linked texts to build comprehension on any topic or theme the books explore. This means children are exposed to a greater range of text types over time. For this unit of reading we have planned to use the stories *How to Skin a Bear* and *Stone Age Boy*, and the non-fiction books *The Pebble in my Pocket*, *Stonehenge* and *Humans*. We have 3 whole class reading lessons each week.

Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.. We ask that children read to an adult every day for 5-10 minutes; this little-and-often approach will help pupils to apply the skills they have learnt within reading lessons and will hopefully provide a

lovely quiet time together for you and your child each day. *To support reading at home, each child's reading diary will have a VIPERS discussion prompt sheet for you to use to help guide discussions about the books you read together.*

Maths

In maths this term we will focus on the understanding of place value and on the development of mental calculation methods. We will also be challenging pupils to secure the times table and division facts which are so vital to success in maths. Your child will be bringing home their quiz results each week so that you can track their progress towards their goal. It can be really helpful if parents pick up on the errors the child has made and work towards learning those particular facts. In addition to this, please encourage your child to log onto Times Table Rock Stars regularly to help develop the fluency needed to be successful in maths. The login details for this can be found at the front of their reading diary. Please be aware that your child will be asked the same questions repeatedly, in order to develop automaticity in these facts. As your child gains speed and accuracy, they will automatically progress onto new questions.

Mathletics

Please encourage your child to log on to the Mathletics weekly and complete 1-2 tasks per week.

PSHE

This term's PSHE is titled "Being Me". It focuses on the children (and adults!) getting to know each other and setting expectations. Throughout the topic children will celebrate things that they are proud of, set themselves targets and will consider how different people might feel in certain situations- such as starting a new class/ school.

Science

In Science this term children will learn about rocks and soils. They will be using keys and observational skills to identify different materials and finding out about how different rocks are formed. There will be several opportunities to carry out practical investigations throughout the term.

Art

Our art this term links directly to our Literacy text, "The Promise". We will be using the text to inspire our artwork - a city growing from a cold, dull, grey place into a bright, colourful and cheerful environment. Children will learn a range of techniques using colouring pencils and charcoal and will have a go at drawing using techniques to achieve an accurate perspective of their city.

RE

What is the trinity? This question will enable children to describe how Christians view the Christian God (God the father, son and Holy spirit) and will help us to explore Bible texts and pieces of art work (as well as creating some of our own).

French

Our French topic this term is "*Getting to know you*". Children will learn how to greet people, introduce themselves and count to ten.

PE

A reminder that PE uniform consists of:

- Black shorts and black tracksuit bottoms for colder weather.
- A green PE t-shirt (available from the school office)
- Trainers
- A jumper or hoodie as the weather starts to get colder

The planned days for PE this term are as follows:

Falcons: Monday and Tuesday

Hawks: Tuesday and Friday

Owls: Monday and Tuesday