



YEAR 3/4

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

We hope that you all had a lovely summer break with your families. The children have made an impressive start to Year 3/4 and 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, filled with water only. 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 for £3 via ParentMail, which your child can then use to purchase snack items from our kitchen at break times.

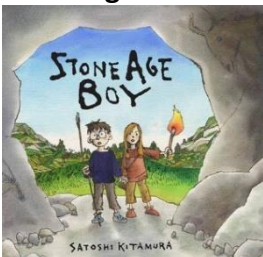
Literacy



Our literacy this term will be inspired by two picture books. 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

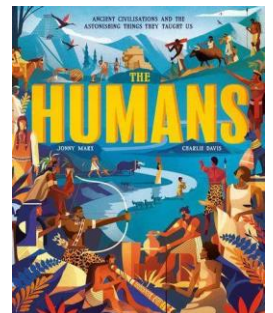


We follow the Big Reading scheme that is used across the whole school. We use linked texts (a small selection of books linked together) to build comprehension on any topic or theme the books explore. It also means children are exposed to a greater range of text types over time. So for this unit of reading, we have planned to

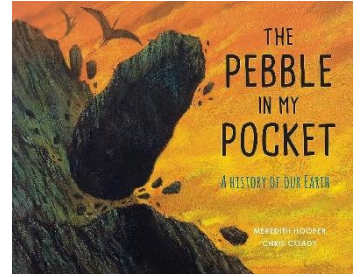
use:

Stories: *How to Skin a Bear*, *Stone Age Boy*

Non-fiction: *The Pebble in my Pocket*, *Stonehenge*, *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. Reading for pleasure was also associated with better sleeping patterns and improved outcomes in adulthood both socially and financially. 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.



Spellings

In Lower Key Stage Two pupils use the Spelling Frame website for supporting the teaching of key spellings <https://spellingframe.co.uk/>

Your child will have a username and password stuck in the front of their reading diary. In order to access the full content, your child must be logged in with these details. The list of focus spellings to be learnt will be stuck into your child's reading diary. The title will indicate which year group the spelling activities should be accessed from. In the example provided, you can see you need to select the year 2 spelling list, then click on rule 13. Using this spelling rule, your child can access a range of activities to help them secure the spelling to be learnt.

Spellingframe

Recap: Y2 Spelling Rule 13

1. dried (dri-**ed**)
2. drier (dri-**er**)
3. driest (dri-**est**)
4. drying (dry-**ing**)
5. happier (hap-**pi-er**)
6. happiest (hap-**pi-est**)
7. laid (lai-**d**)
8. lay (lay-)
9. laying (lay-**-ing**)
10. say (say-)
11. saying (say-**-ing**)

Your child can then choose from the activities and games for the specific spelling rule being learnt this week. In addition to practising through the games, your child can complete two practise tests for this spelling rule online throughout the week (select practise/test then the test tab). We will do a final test online Friday in school. You will be able to view your child's final score by logging in at home. The programme is very intuitive and will provide additional activities for specific spellings your child may find challenging. It will also add any unknown words, such as those a child gets incorrect during the tests, to help your child recall tricky spellings over time. We will be using this website in class regularly to help your child gain confidence in using this at home as part of their spelling homework. Please encourage your child to log on regularly throughout the week at home, to help them secure this important vocabulary and the spelling of these words.

If your child does not have internet access, please let your child's class teacher know via the lower key stage two email address.

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 times table 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.

This year, we are continuing to use Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS). Key Instant Recall Facts are designed to support the development of the mental skills and key knowledge that underpin much of the maths work in our school. An important part of maths development has always been the learning of certain maths facts, including practising times tables and addition facts, such as number bonds and doubles. Each half term, children will focus on a KIRF that will be taught in school, but which also needs to be practised at home. It is important that children know these facts thoroughly and can recall them instantly. The KIRFs are designed to be a set of facts that need to be learnt thoroughly as they build on each other year on year. Please support your child in working on this KIRF at home.

Please see below the KIRF for this term, labelled according to the Maths class your child is in.

Hawks: I know doubles and halves of numbers to 20

Owls: I know doubles and halves of numbers to 20

Falcons: I know the number bonds to 100

Sumdog

Please encourage your child to log on to [Sumdog](#) weekly and complete 1-2 tasks per week as part of their maths homework.

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. During this unit children will learn about the work of Zaha Hadid and her architectural achievements. 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 artwork (as well as creating some of our own).

French

Our French topic this term is 'French greetings'. Children will learn to greet someone and introduce themselves in French and use the correct French greeting for the time of day. They will also learn how to ask someone how they are feeling in French.

Drumming

Children in year 3/4 will have the opportunity to practise African djembe drumming this term. They will practise a variety of musical sequences and play music-related games that will develop their skills of memory, listening and rhythm. The children will also be introduced to a number of different music styles and begin to understand the importance of drumming in time with a beat and their peers.

Computing

The children will learn to recognise that different devices can be used to capture photographs and will gain experience capturing different types of images, they will then develop their understanding of how digital images can be changed and edited, and how they can then be resaved and reused. They will consider the impact that editing images can have and evaluate the effectiveness of their choices.

PE

A polite reminder that children should wear smart school PE kit on the above days, not football kits etc. School PE kit consists of:

- Green Northbourne PE T-shirt
- Black shorts or tracksuit bottoms for colder weather
- Suitable trainers for outdoor wear.
- Sweatshirt, hoodie or other long-sleeved top to be worn when outside in colder weather.

Children should wear their PE kit on the following days:

Falcons: Wednesday and Thursday

Hawks: Thursday and Friday

Owls: Monday and Thursday