



Year 3/4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year 2020-2021. It feels like it has been a while since we last saw everyone but the children are all settling well and enjoying being back at school. Please find below a summary of Years 3 and 4's main learning areas for this term along with some general reminders.

English

Our English lessons this year will be following the National Curriculum covering reading and writing, with a focus on SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) especially targeting any gaps from learning they have missed. The children will have the opportunity to write in a variety of styles and genres, whilst understanding the grammar of how to write, and how to structure their writing. We will start this term by focusing on recapping how to write simple sentences using adjectives, verbs and adverbs before moving onto writing more complex sentences. Our lessons will revolve around key texts starting with 'Stone Age Boy' which the children have already shown excitement for. The text we use will act as a stimulus for writing, whilst also engaging the children in the reading of quality texts. This term the children will be writing stories, diary entries, recounts, information texts and letters. Additionally, they will be using their writing skills across the curriculum, in lessons such as Science and History. The children will also have a discrete lesson on grammar every week to ensure that all gaps in their learning are addressed.

Maths

As with English, our Maths lessons will follow the National Curriculum. The term will begin with a focus on place value, including value of digits and how to partition numbers to show how they are made. We will then focus closely on an understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, to provide a strong base to develop our knowledge across the rest of the year. Maths lessons will not only be driven by understanding basic number skills and concepts but also involve investigation. There will also be weekly arithmetic work, as the children refine their mental and written methods for all four operations (+, -, x, ÷).

P.E.

Years 3 and 4 will have PE sessions every Friday with Mr Franco and St Neots F.C. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on these days. PE kit includes a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, black shorts, black joggers, an outdoor jumper (when the weather requires it), outdoor trainers and a water bottle.

Forest Schools

In Years 3 and 4 the children are lucky enough to take part in Forest Schools. This happens on a Thursday on a three weekly rotation for the three classes. The children will need to wear clothes and shoes that you do not mind getting dirty for Forest Schools. A letter will go out on the Wednesday to remind the children to come to school in their Forest Schools clothes the following day.

Topic

In Years 3 and 4, our topics this term will be following our History units of 'The Stone Age' and 'Ancient Egypt'. The children will learn about how early humans lived during these times and draw comparisons between life then and now. These themes will run throughout the term and will

be touched upon during topic lessons, as well as incorporating skills covered in art, design and technology, music, English and computing lessons.

Homework

English homework focuses on both reading and spelling.

Reading is vital to success across the curriculum, as it influences everything from spelling to writing to imagination. We would very much appreciate you listening to your child's reading and discussing their book with them. Please complete and sign their reading diary each time they read and, if possible, add a comment. This will really help your child to progress in reading and writing. Every day, reading records will be checked and we value any feedback you can provide us with. We will be continuing with 5 reads and a book talk this academic year. This is where we ask the children to read 5 times at home (either their school book or a home book) and have a discussion with an adult or older sibling about the book they have read (book talk).

Spelling homework will be sent out on a Wednesday and the children will be tested on them on the following Monday. Teachers will ask the children to learn their spellings in a variety of ways by practicing them and using them in sentences. Spellings will be differentiated and scores will be recorded when the children have been tested on them. Other formal written homework will not be sent home. Children need to remember to return their homework book on time.

For **Maths** homework, the children will be using Maths Whizz (www.whizz.com), an online maths education website that is tailored to each individual child. The children are required to complete **45 minutes** of Maths Whizz per week. Maths Whizz will start each Monday, and 45 minutes must be completed by each Sunday evening. If your child has no access to the internet, written homework can be provided. Please speak to your child's class teacher about this.

In addition, children are required to practise multiplication tables and division facts to aid rapid recall. In school the children will be using TT Rock Stars (www.ttrockstars.com) to learn their times tables, and they should practise this at home for **15 minutes** each week using the free app for phones, tablets and laptops. Every week there will be an informal check as part of the maths lesson.

If you have any questions at all, please do speak to us and we will try our best to answer them. There will be fortnightly curriculum newsletters in which we shall keep you updated and informed about our learning, particularly with regards to English and Maths. We shall also provide any extra details you will need, such as changes to timetables, notifications, etc. There will be updates over the term on our class pages on the school website, plus information on our Facebook pages. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead so thank you in advance for your continued support.

Mrs Worth, Mrs Dickinson, Miss Booler and Mrs Passan (class teachers)

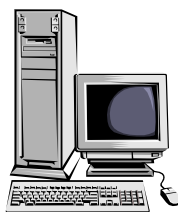
Mrs Bailey, Mrs Wood, Mrs Knox and Miss Stokes (classroom TAs)

Years 3 and 4 Curriculum Topics – Autumn Term 2020



Topic

In History, we will be learning about life during the Stone Age and Ancient Egypt times. The children will develop an understanding of how early humans lived, including their homes, food, customs and day to day lives.



Computing

The children will be carrying out research for our topic and will be using Scratch to understand algorithms. They will be accessing several platforms including laptops and tablets.



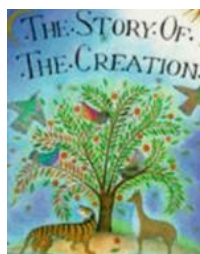
Science

Our first topic is Rocks. The children will learn about the different types of rocks, describe their features and investigate their properties. They will also learn about how soil is created.



Art

Our Art will be centred around our topics beginning with prehistoric art. The children will develop their sketching skills and use charcoal, chalk and paint to create their own cave paintings.



PSHE / RE

The children will learn about family and relationships and how to stay safe online this term. In RE they will learn about celebrations in different religions.



Physical Education

PE in the Autumn term will focus on foundation sports skills with Mr Franco and football skills with St Neots F.C.



Music

This term, the focus will be on listening and appreciation of music. We will listen to different styles and genres as well as learning about rhythm, tempo and beat.



Design Technology

We will begin by understanding how people during the Stone Age cooked. The children will help to make stewed fruit using an authentic recipe. Later in the term, they will also make a slingshot car.



Geography / History

We will be using map skills to name the 7 continents and locate countries. We will be looking at how to order events in chronological order on a timeline and how the lives of those who lived in the past were similar and different to ours today.