



Year 3/4 Curriculum Newsletter – Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. We are delighted to see all of the children back and they 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 a variety of familiar traditional tales which will culminate in the children writing their own alternative version of a well-known tale. We will then move onto basing our writing around 'Esio Trot' by Roald Dahl. The children will use this text as a stimulus for writing a non-fiction report. Before half term, the children will be writing a selection of poems that follow particular patterns using imaginative language. After half term, they will be writing persuasive letters and using a contemporary novel to inspire their fiction writing. Additionally, they will be using their writing skills across the curriculum, in lessons such as Science and History. The children will also have discrete sessions on grammar daily 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 calculation methods for the four operations. This will be a theme which we will continue to visit throughout the term to ensure a secure understanding. We will then move onto work on fractions, money and decimals. After half term, we will focus on shape, position and direction and understanding angles before further developing new written methods for multiplication and division. We will finish the term by understanding how to tell the time on both analogue and digital clocks, then use this understanding to solve time related problems.

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.

Topic

In Years 3 and 4, our topic this term is called 'Home and Away' which will have a focus on the geography curriculum. The children will learn about the local environment and make comparisons between St Neots and other places in Europe. 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 term. 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. The 45 minutes is only when they are completing lessons.

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. The 15 minutes is only when they are completing the times table games/checks.

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, Mrs Smith and Mrs Hall (class teachers)

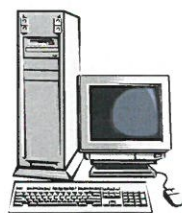
Mrs Bailey, Mrs Wood, Mrs Knox and Miss Stokes (classroom TAs)

Years 3 and 4 Curriculum Topics – Summer Term 2021



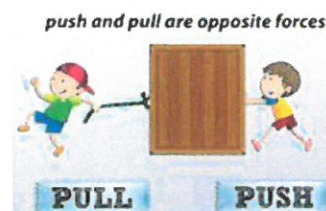
Geography

In Geography, the children will be learning about their local environment. They will be drawing comparisons between St Neots. They will also be developing an understanding of the differences between villages, towns and cities.



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 forces. The children will be learning about pushes and pulls through investigations. After half term, our learning will be based on *plants* and understanding how they grow.



Art

Our Art will be centred around our topics and based on key skills. They will be carving, painting, sketching and creating optical illusions. We will be looking at work from notable artists to inspire us.



PSHE

The children will learn about friendships and tolerance this term. Our PSHE will link in with our learning in RE. As we approach the end of the term we will think about changes and how to cope with them.



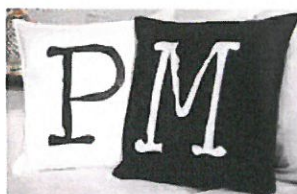
Physical Education

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



Music

This term, the focus will be on composing and exploring different musical elements. They will compose a piece of music to accompany an animation.



Design Technology

In DT, the children are going to be designing and making cushions. They will be learning how to thread a needle, sew fabric together and attach and appliqué to their cushion.



RE

In RE, we will start the term looking at and understanding Christianity. We will then learn about Islam and Judaism, drawing comparisons between the different faiths to deepen our understanding.