

Forest and Sandridge C of E Primary School

Curriculum Information Letter- Year 4 January 2024



Dear Parents,

we would like to welcome you back to school and hope that you had a happy Christmas break. In this letter, you will find an overview of the learning that your child will be completing during this Spring Term in school.

Our Focus Values for the Spring Term are Humility and Respect & Reverence

English and Spelling

English:

This term our focus text is *The Lost Happy Endings* by Carol Ann Duffy. This is a fantastic and magical tale about what happens when, one night, a wicked witch steals the happy endings to bedtime stories. It is up to Jub, the keeper of the happy endings, to save the day and ensure sweet dreams everywhere in this lyrical story about storytelling. We will be re writing part of the ending and creating our own character for the story. We will also continue to develop our use of reading VIPERS within reading lessons and are continuing to build the children's independent reading for enjoyment.

Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling Focus:

Within our English lessons, we will explore the use of coordinating conjunctions to create compound sentence, fronted adverbials to add in extra information and similes for description.

In our school, we practise Spellings rigorously.

We introduce all the words on a Tuesday when we have a really close look at their definitions, morphology and etymology. The rest of the week is dedicated to Phonics work (which is a skill for life!), identifying the focus grapheme in texts, correctly applying the words in sentences and writing from dictation. It is also addressed not only within the dedicated spelling sessions but also during any lessons throughout the day.

Maths

In Maths, we will be focusing on the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This will involve looking at mental methods and teaching the most efficient methods depending on the question, to using the column method. The column method will be used to add and subtract 4-digit numbers, as well as to multiply and divide 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. We will also be finalising the learning of the times tables within our Maths lessons. Incorporation of times tables is a daily practice in our classes - we continue to do lots of activities to further embed the knowledge the children have already gained. As always, we are grateful for any additional learning you do at home to support the children in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check and their time in Y5 and Y6, when mental calculation will become essential.

RE

This term, we are going to be focussing on Judaism. Our Big Question is 'How special is the relationship Jews have with God?' Within this unit, we will be looking at the promises made between one another as well as exploring cultural stories and readings to deepen understanding of Judaism.

In the following term, in our RE, we will be asking 'How important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do?'

Science

Our first Science theme is States of Matter. We will be exploring solids, liquids and gases, classifying them as well as looking at how they can be changed by cooling, boiling

	<p>and freezing. Many of these lessons will be practical in order to really explore how materials can change.</p> <p>Our second Science theme will be Electricity. We will be identifying common appliances that run on electricity and discussing the difference between mains and battery powered appliances. We will construct a simple electrical circuit identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will also explore how a switch opens and closes a circuit and put this into practice. Within this unit we will also learn to recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.</p>
Computing	<p>In Term 3, we will be learning about repetition in shape. This is a programming unit and we will mainly be using Logo on Purple Mash. Children will program the 'turtle' to draw numbers and shapes, and will learn basic commands for this. Throughout the unit, children will learn the skill of debugging to fix an algorithm that doesn't quite work. In Term 4, we will consider how and why data is collected over time. Children will consider the senses that humans use to experience the environment and how computers can use special input devices called sensors to monitor the environment. We will collect data, as well as accessing data captured over long periods of time. We will look at data points, data sets and logging intervals, and will review and analyse data.</p>
PE + Sports	<p>This term in PE, we will be learning the skills in order to play a game of netball (Monday) as well as working as a team in order to play dodgeball (Friday). These will both incorporate a range of ball skills which children will apply to the games. Please make sure your child has both an indoor and warm outdoor kit in school for these days as we will be going outside in all weather.</p>
Geography	<p>During Terms 3 & 4, we will be looking at The United Kingdom. Exploring the countries, capital cities as well as the general geography of the UK.</p>
Art and Design	<p>Our Art this term will be focussing on using Watercolours as a medium for artwork. We will be using watercolours to create a landscape. We will be learning different techniques to use with watercolours, such as flat wash and graded wash. Our focus artist we will be basing our work upon is Albert Gleizes.</p>
D.T	<p>In Term 4, we will be learning about electric mechanicals, which will be taught alongside our Electricity unit in Science.</p>
MFL	<p>In French, our theme is 'My family. The children will learn to use the vocabulary for different members of their family. The children will apply their new vocabulary in role play situations and games to help secure their knowledge and confidence.</p>
PSHEE/SRE	<p>Our PSHE topic is Dreams and Goals. The children will be identifying dreams and goals and why it is important to have ambitions. We will look at inspiring stories of people who have overcome challenge whilst working towards something and link this to our value of courage.</p>
Music	<p>This term, in Music, we will introduce the children to learning about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. The learning will be focussed around exploring and developing playing skills through the glockenspiel.</p>
Attendance	<p>This year we have a school target of 97% for all pupils. It is very important that your child attends school every day that they are fit and well. Please check our website or telephone the school office if you are unsure about whether to send your child into school or not. Pupils with attendance of less than 90% are regarded by the Government as having Persistent Absence and pupils with attendance in danger of falling to this level will be invited into school for support and an action plan will be developed (to restore their attendance to a level that will allow them to achieve well at school).</p>

Learning at Home	To support children's learning, we greatly encourage regular reading at home, this can be any text type (not just books from school). Children will also benefit from regularly practising their spellings and times tables. Please continue to support your children at home in these areas. Please also see our weekly overviews which explain what we will be teaching each week as well as ideas and ways to help your child with their learning.
Important Information	Our spelling test will still be on a Monday and, please, don't forget that there is also a big focus on times tables. In school, we practice all of our timetables on a regular basis and encourage the children to utilise Times Tables Rockstars at home, too.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on Class Dojo.

Mrs Baines, Mrs Daysh and Mrs Johnson