



Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to teaching your children for the Advent Term and we have loads of exciting new things planned! Before I tell you about our exciting creative curriculum for the upcoming term, please take a few moments to read a few housekeeping notes!

PE

We are still requesting that pupils come into school on PE days in their PE kits. These should be a plain white t- shirt and a plain navy blue or black tracksuit. These clothes will be suitable for both PE and Forest Schools which are on alternating weeks.

Labelling of uniform

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that children and lost items can be easily reunited.

Water Bottles

Pupils MUST have a water bottle in school every day. Ideally these should be sports capped or straw topped bottles to prevent spillage and clearly labelled with your child's name.

Homework, spellings and times tables

These will be given out on a Friday.

Spellings will be tested on Fridays. The children will be given a times table/division focus for the week and will be tested throughout the week. TTRS and Spelling Shed games will be expected to be completed regularly each week.

Homework does not have to be always completed independently; it is an opportunity to sit with your child, discuss their thoughts and ideas, maybe suggest how they could improve their work. I like to develop a home-school partnership and part of this is homework. Please don't think you have to sit your child in silence to get the work done. Discuss it and have fun with it.

Reading at home

It is still important to hear your child read at home. Your child will take home their reading book every night, please encourage reading of any kind (magazines, newspapers, e books) as it will all give your child a reading experience and add to your child's creativity. Reading diaries will continue to be used this year and will be checked on Mondays. Children who forget these or who haven't got 3 signatures from a parent/carer/older sibling will complete reading in school during their own time.

I think that is it on the housekeeping front! Curriculum...

Come and See

Our first unit is all about ourselves, exploring our talents, how we can use our talents for God and others. We will then be looking at 'Life choices', Judaism and our 'Hope'.

English

This term we will be building on reading from the final term of Year 4 by studying further work by Onjali K Rauf, who wrote 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. 'The Night Bus Hero', 'The Great Food Bank Heist' and Marcus Rashford's 'You Are A Champion' will be core texts to help not only develop our reading skills, but also our writing. All of our books this year have been chosen specifically to reflect and promote our curriculum themes of:

- Social Justice
- Community
- Keeping Safe and Healthy
- Conservation
- Movement of People
- Cultural similarities and differences
- Farming

We will be completing daily VIPERS sessions that will introduce the children to culturally diverse and classic literature, as well as developing their understanding and implementation of more complex punctuation and grammatical structures.

Maths

We will be following White Rose Maths this term. We will be completing units on place value and the number system and the four operations. Every lesson will start with a 'Flashback' which will focus on questions based on learning from the previous lesson, week, month and year. Every Friday, we will be completing the Friday Challenge to ensure that we are keeping all our maths skills alive.

We will also be continuing to have a big focus on the speed and accuracy of times tables and division fact recall. TTRS is an excellent tool to support the retrieval of these facts, however I should emphasise that children should be encouraged to use a variety of strategies to learn them first! Here are some reasons why learning them is so important and how this can be achieved: <https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/teach-times-tables-pupils-learn-instant-recall-ks1-ks2/>

Science

Our first science unit is 'Forces'. We will be exploring Isaac Newton's law of Gravity and conducting experiments to test water and air resistance.

During the second half of the term we will be looking at 'Properties and changes of materials'.

Art and DT

We will be linking our art to our historical investigation by investigating the different types of Islamic art and creating prints using this style as inspiration.

Music

In music this term we will be receiving whole class music tuition on the ukuleles from Mr Burton, who some children may already know from their piano/singing lessons. This will take place on a Thursday.

PE/Forest Schools

This term we will be working on our hockey and gymnastics skills with Mr Woolley (NW) and Mrs Oates (NO), as well as Forest Schools with Mrs Hudson (AH). The dates for these sessions in the first half term will be as follows:

w/b 11.09.23	13.09.23 – PE (NO)
	14.09.23 – Forest Schools (AH)
w/b 18.09.23	21.09.23 – PE (NW)
w/b 25.09.23	27.09.23 – PE (NO)
	28.09.23 – Forest Schools
w/b 02.10.23	05.10.23 – PE (NW)
w/b 09.10.23	11.10.23 – PE (NO)
	12.10.23 – Forest Schools (AH)
w/b 16.10.23	19.10.23 – PE (NW)

History and Geography

We will be learning about the Ancient Islamic Civilisation, which obviously has significantly influenced the world as we see and experience it today.

In Geography in the second part of the term we will be learning about Mountains of the World.

Computing:

This term, we will continue to build on our knowledge of computer networks and systems before moving on to vector drawing.

French:

In French this term we will be learning about French phonetics, how to have a conversation in French about your pets and how to express today's date.

If you have any questions about anything contained in this letter or any questions throughout the term please don't hesitate to ask. Parent's Consultation Meetings, will be scheduled in the first term, with the option to meet online or face-to-face, where I will chat to you all about targets and weak areas for focus. However, in the meantime, your child will be given mini targets through marking and verbal discussions.

We are looking forward to this exciting year!

Mrs Oates, Mrs Harper and Mr Harrison.