



Year 3 and 4 Newsletter

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

- The Big Questions covered this term
- Homework information
- Online Safety
- Useful Links

HAPPY 2024!

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a very happy festive break and looking forward to start of a new year.

This year our central theme is 'Inventions'. This is divided into 'Big Questions' which will be running through each subject and will be at the core of our teaching and learning. These questions are included below.



<u>Literacy</u> The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba The Iron Man by Ted Hughes	<u>Maths</u> Multiplication and Division Length and Perimeter Fractions	<u>Science</u> Which is the most important: an insulator or a conductor? How do whales hear over long distances?
<u>Computing</u> Do I need to repeat myself?	<u>RSHE</u> Can you invent the perfect friend? Is being strong the same as being healthy?	<u>Languages</u> Going Shopping in France
<u>History</u> Did we learn anything from the event of 1666?	<u>PE</u> Gymnastics Invasion Games	<u>Music</u> How do musicals tell a story?
<u>RE</u> Do all places of worship look the same?	<u>DT</u> How can electricity be used to entertain?	<u>Art</u> Is colour or shape more important in pattern making?

HOMEWORK

Maths

Timestables and end of unit quizzes

We have a focus on times tables this year for Year 3 and 4. We want to try and make this process automatic, much like the ability to recall song lyrics. This will help with cognitive load, providing a stable foundation for more complex math learning in Upper Key Stage 2. This is based on a new programme by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM). It would be brilliant if you could encourage your children to practice recalling these out loud, alternatively, they have been sent home with TT Rockstars logins.

We will also be giving the children **end of unit quizzes** to check whether the learning has been fully embedded. This will inform whether they need any additional help, so would be great if they performed this independently. These will be fortnightly, but will vary depending on topic length.

Literacy

Reading

We are trying to promote a love of reading. There is a positive relationship between reading frequency, enjoyment and attainment. It has been shown to improve both academic and personal development in children. Also, research suggests that vocabulary knowledge and verbal reasoning improve in children who are read to throughout Primary school. Further information on these is included below.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Phonics games

- phonicsplay.co.uk

Math games

- topmarks.co.uk
- mathsframe.co.uk

Science

- wowscience.co.uk

DATES TO REMEMBER

World Book Day: Thursday 7th
March

STEM Day : tbc

Whole school music day: tbc

Online Safety

Following a few RSHE lessons, we thought it would be helpful to include some information about online safety. A lot of the children recounted how they have been approached online by someone they had not physically met or previously knew.

We have taught modules on the importance of online safety, using the acronym SMART, included below. For more information to ensure online safety at home, we found the following link very helpful:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

Online games were the platform where most children interacted with those outside of their friendship group. For more information we found this link very helpful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>



Other Information

PE

PE will be on Friday this term for the whole of Year 3 and 4.

PE Kit

- T-shirt > Plain white or navy with school logo
- Shorts > Plain navy
- Tracksuit > Plain navy bottoms, plain navy tracksuit top, or school hoody
- Navy or white socks
- Earrings need to be removed or taped.

EDUCATION RESEARCH

Cognitive Load in Mathematics

- [mathsnoproblem](#)

Reading out loud with children

- [Education Endowment Foundation](#)

Benefits of Reading

- [Department of Education](#)

