

How can you help your child?

With their learning...

- Talk with your child about their school work, topics and the world around them.
- Hear your child read regularly and help them to learn spellings strategies.
- Visit the library and help your son/daughter to choose books to read for pleasure and to support their topics.
- Encourage them to use Mathletics, TT Rock Stars, Numbots and Spelling Shed at home on a tablet or computer.
 - Please check your child's planner daily and initial it daily (in the weekly diary) to show that reading has been completed.
 - Sign the planner every week (at the bottom of the page) so that we know homework has been completed and that all communication between home and school has been shared.
 - Please help your child learn their times tables. You can find them in their planners. There are also plenty of APPs for tablets that are useful if used regularly – just search 'times tables'.

With practical issues...

- Ensure that your child has the correct P.E. Kit in school every day.
- Children should wear a tie with winter uniform.
- Children should not wear nail varnish or jewellery (other than a watch and / or stud earrings) for school.
- Don't forget that if your child wishes to have their ears pierced, the best time is the beginning of the summer holidays as it is Dudley policy that children cannot wear any kind of earrings during PE lessons.
- Long hair should be tied up for safety reasons.
- Please ensure that all uniform is marked with the child's name.

Homework...

- Homework will be set every Wednesday and is due to be completed by the following Tuesday.
- TT Rock Stars and Spelling Shed should be completed daily

English

Writing - Our topic will inspire our writing styles to include: letters, newspaper reports, information or fact files, adventure stories and instructions. In our writing we will concentrate on developing sentence structure and punctuation through a variety of genres including the correct and appropriate use of Alan Peat Sentences (APS). Weekly spelling tests (dictations) will be taking place on a Tuesday. All children will be given a copy of the spellings in their Spelling Journal.

Reading - Children will do guided reading within class which focuses on vocabulary, phonics, fluency and expression. Comprehension will be developed through targeted questioning and reading journal activities. Children are able to choose their own home reader which they can change as often as required. We encourage you to share these books with your child to help them gain confidence and develop a passion for reading for pleasure.

Computing

In Computing, as part of information technology, this term the children will be learning how to make an exciting, engaging, interactive PowerPoint presentation. Children will also be using technology to research our topics. As part of computer science, the children will be programming and writing algorithms.

PE

Year 3/4M and 3/4C have P.E. on a Tuesday afternoon which is taught by a specialist sports coach. 3/4O have P.E. on Wednesday, taught by Mrs Oliver. The children will engage in different activities. Please ensure that children have full P.E kit in school, including a plain tracksuit (bottoms and top), every day.

Please also ensure that any earrings are removed and long hair is tied up securely.

Maths

In Maths we follow the National Curriculum. This term we will be looking at: number and place value, multiplication and division, measurement using scales, temperature, mass and capacity, fractions, time, angles and statistics.

You can support your child's learning by encouraging them to tell the time, use jugs etc. to measure liquids and helping them to practise their multiplication tables on a regular basis. By the end of Year 4 all children need to have a rapid recall of **all** multiplication tables.

Geography

The focus of our geography lessons this term is to learn about how, and where, mountains and volcanoes form.

Children will be learning about tectonic plates and the physical geography of mountains. They will be using globes, atlases and digital mapping systems to locate major mountain ranges across the seven continents.

History

As historians, the children will be finding out about the Viking invasion, lifestyles and looking at artefacts to bring the period of time to life.

Science

The children will be learning about 'Plants'. They will be encouraged to work scientifically and set their own questions to investigate. They will be beginning to learn about 'fair testing' and why this is important in science.

PSHE

The children will be looking at the themes of 'Community', 'Online Information' and 'Money Matters'.

We will also continue to reinforce our Rights Respecting Schools and the articles connected to the children's rights.

YEAR 3/4 NEWSLETTER

'Vikings' and 'Mountains and Volcanoes'

The Spring term will be split into two topics - 'Vikings' and 'Mountains and Volcanoes'.

During the first half of the term, children will be immersing themselves into the life of the Vikings; finding out where they came from, how they arrived and why they decided to settle in Great Britain.

After half-term, the children will be reaching new heights as they investigate how mountains and volcanoes are formed, the structure of our planet and the impact when nature strikes.

Thank you for your continued support.

RE

The children will be learning about the Buddhist and Sikh faiths this term. They will discuss the meaning of Easter in greater depth and learn about growing up as a Sikh.

Music

In music children have the opportunity to compose and perform their own pieces of music using a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

D&T

Children will evaluate the best materials for Viking long ship sails whilst making a wind-powered wheeled toy.

Children will cook a savoury dish using fresh ingredients.

Art

As artists, the children will research and discuss famous artists and illustrators before emulating their work using a variety of mediums. This will include water colour painting, printing, sculpting, sketching and using pastels and charcoals.

For your attention:

It is very important that your child's planner is kept safely and returned to school each day. This provides evidence at the end of the year of your child's progress in reading. Could you please comment and sign your child's planner weekly?