

Years 3 & 4 Carpenter Class Spring Term 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a happy new year. Carpenters class have an exciting term ahead. We will be spending a day at the Everdon learning Centre completing a Forest workshop and taking part in team building exercises. This will be an extra special day as the children will also be staying for dinner! We will be visiting Compton Verney in Spring two to learn more about The Anglo- Saxons and the Vikings. We also have two forest school sessions planned for Spring two, our sports partnership restarting and swimming!

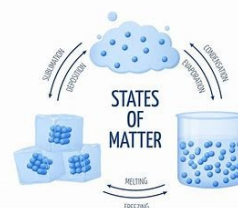


Geography - Our geography focus for the Spring term is 'Settlements'. In this unit, children head back in time to find out how the towns and cities of the UK first developed. Children will learn about the needs and requirements early settlers had when choosing a place to build a home. They will look at place names around the UK to see how the Anglo-Saxons, Romans and Vikings all left their mark. Through use of digital and paper maps, children will investigate land use in different sized settlements and the ways in which settlements are linked together. At the end of the unit, children draw together all their learning about settlements to design their own new settlement!

History - The history topic for this term is Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. This unit will teach your class about the raids and invasions by Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children will learn who the Vikings were as well as when and where they raided and settled. They will learn about significant events from the period and order these chronologically on a timeline. The children will find out about the Anglo-Saxon kings who ruled during the 'Viking Age' and examine their influence and significance in British history. In addition to this, they will learn about the Anglo-Saxon justice system and compare and contrast crimes, punishments and laws with their modern-day equivalents. The children will also have the opportunity to learn about different aspects of everyday Viking life. They will explore the types of houses that the Vikings lived in, what clothes they wore and even what types of food they ate.



Science - States of matter and Changing Sound. This 'States of Matter' unit will teach your class about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle, creating mini water worlds and an interactive water wheel to represent the different stages.



In the 'Changing Sound unit' the children will cover the following objectives:

- asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers
- gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables

- using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions
- using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings
- identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
- find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it
- recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases

P.E. - The children will once again be taking part in the Coronation Cup event! The BGN sports partnership will once again start up and the children in all key stages taking part in a variety of sporting events. Mr Causebrook will once again run inter house competitions for each event to ensure the children are prepared to compete. The children in KS2 will begin a ten-week swimming course after the February half term, each session will be 1 hr. The PE topics to be covered in school will be Gymnastics and Football.

Art and DT- Mrs Morgan will be moving on to making and designing juggling balls in DT and in Art the children will cover 'Bodies'. This 'Bodies' themed unit will teach your class about how to use pen, charcoal, felt tip, make maquettes, make paper clothes and sculpt Giacometti-inspired models to create quality artwork that shows progression in skills. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the work of 'Bodies' artists Julian Opie, Alberto Giacometti and Henry Moore. This Juggling Balls unit will teach your class how to make juggling balls. They will start by exploring and evaluating different juggling balls. Children are then given a design brief, asking them to design and make a circus themed juggling ball. A hemming and overcast stitch will be introduced during this unit. Children will learn about decoration techniques; getting the chance to use tie-dye and fabric paints. Finally, when they have completed the making of their juggling ball, children will evaluate their product against design criteria.



Computing - We have already begun our Spreadsheet unit using Purple Mash and have already a good grasp on the use of formulas. We will move on to cover 'Writing for different audiences' again using the Rising Stars software Purple Mash.

French- The children will work through the Year 4 La Jolie Ronde workbook. The children will complete a 15-minute session of French every day (Parcel of learning). We will also take opportunities to celebrate our learning on Feast days and through songs as we have in the past. Mrs Morgan will recap on the French units from the Year 3 scheme on a Thursday.

RE - During this term we will cover the units, 'Community', 'Giving and Receiving' and 'Self- Discipline'. The children will also be taught a unit on Islam as part of our other faith learning. This unit will be taught in all classes over a week.

Music - Music this term starts with the topic 'Dragon Song' and we will then move on to preparing for the Passion Service in church.

English- This term the children will be studying the book 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. The children will complete weekly guided reading sessions on this story, use it as the context for writing persuasive letters and compare the story to the series produced by the BBC. We will then move on to Writing to save the rainforest and playscripts.



Homework

The homework tasks that the children are expected to complete are as follows:

- Read their school reading book (daily)
- Practise spellings (weekly)
- Times table practise (weekly)
- One Maths/English task (weekly)



Homework will be set on a Thursday and needs to be handed in on Wednesday morning. The completed homework will be marked on this day, with a reward of a house point for handing it in. The children will receive their book back on Thursday morning and will then be expected to stick in their own spellings and any homework sheets they may have. On a Thursday morning, the children will be tested on their spellings and the Multiples marathon test will be on a Friday.

P.E. Uniform



PE lessons will take place on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has the following kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions:

- A red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- A pair of tracksuit/jogging bottoms
- A hoodie or sweatshirt

We will aim to be outside as much as possible for our P.E. session, so it is important that the children have the items listed above to keep them warm as the weather gets colder. **Please note: in the interests of safety, children with earrings will be expected to remove them.**

Mathematics

The children will continue to learn using the White Rose maths scheme covering:

- Multiplication and Division
- Length and Perimeter
- Fractions
- Decimals

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

The new Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will be administered to Year 4 pupils within a 3-week period in June 2024. The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Year 4 children will answer three practice questions before moving on to the official check where they will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12x12, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

All children in the class should be able to access paper copies of the Multiples Marathon tests from the school website which will assist them in their knowledge and fluency of times table recall. It is expected that they practise the level of the test they are currently on at home, over the week in preparation for the Multiples Marathon tests, which take place on a Friday afternoon.

Pencil cases in school

The school provides all the equipment that the children require for them to complete their school work. **The use of pencil cases in Carpenter's Class is therefore discouraged**, as they and their contents can cause distractions, which disrupts learning. Also, items from them become 'lost' which can cause disagreements or distress for the children.

If you have any queries or questions, then please feel free to arrange a meeting by contacting the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Concannon

Head Teacher

St Marys Catholic Primary School ALW