



Rattlesden C of E Primary Academy

Believe Embrace Shine Together

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

Oak Class Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2024



We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for the new term ahead! This term the staffing arrangements will remain the same as they were in the Autumn term. We are pleased to welcome a student teacher to Oak Class this term too.

This newsletter outlines the exciting and inspiring activities planned for your child that we hope will make their learning a rewarding and fun experience this term.

As always, we are available for brief messages in the morning or you may arrange a convenient time to meet with us after school. You can also stay in touch via your child's reading log, sharing assemblies and parents evening.

If you have any resources, expertise or knowledge of any trips or visits we could use that may help us with our topic this term then please do let us know.

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Mrs. Ling, Mrs. Jeffery and Mrs. Firth

Curriculum

English

This term our work in English will link to our topic. We will read and write a range of engaging texts linked to our learning about Africa. The children have personalised termly writing targets in their books to ensure progress. We will focus on continuing to develop a cursive script when handwriting and will use Letter Join resources.

They will take part in reading sessions where they will read as part of a group and much emphasis will be placed on developing reading comprehension skills. Your child will also read individually to an adult. The frequency of this depends on the needs of each child. Children are invited to choose books from home or from a selection available in class once they are 'independent readers'. The children will also have the opportunity to choose books from our library. Please ensure all school books are returned once your child has finished reading them so they are available for another child.

Spellings will be taught and learnt in school so there will be no weekly lists sent home to learn. However, homework will have a spelling focus this term and we will be sending home an information sheet about the spellings we are learning about in school and two different activities your child can do. These may be games or worksheet based activities. We are still working on the children's ability to spell the list of high frequency words. Therefore, a personalised list will be sent home with your child to learn and they will be tested on these at various points throughout the term.

At home:

Access 'Letter Join' at home. The access details are in your child's reading log.

It is immensely beneficial for your child to read to an adult at home at least three times a week. It will have a positive impact on their reading and also their writing. To broaden the children's range of genres and to expand their vocabulary, why not choose a book, newspaper or magazine to read and discuss with your child?

Support your child to learn the high frequency words which will be sent home. You will also find a list of words that the children need to learn to spell in year 3 and 4 - please work on reading and then spelling these together.

Each week on a Thursday, new spelling tasks will be sent home. The children should spend 15 minutes working on these. The work is to be handed in on the following Thursday. It needs to be completed in pencil please.

Maths

Planning is based on the Primary Curriculum and will build on skills and knowledge from year 2. This term, we will be mostly focusing on multiplication and division and fractions. Will will also cover length and perimeter and mass and capacity. We will be providing lots of opportunities for your children to use their knowledge and skills to solve problems and explain their reasoning.

The children are expected to recall all multiplication facts up to 12x12 by the end of year 4. Lots of focus on year 3 is on developing an instant recall of multiplication facts. The children will take part in regular times table challenges to improve knowledge of multiplication facts and move 'up the mountain'. Please see the reading logs for more detail about times tables.

At home:

Please help your child learn their tables. Short daily challenges/practice is best! Access Times Table Rockstars to help learn and practise multiplication tables. There are some useful tips and resources in your child's reading log. The log will also show your child's progress through the school 'times table mountain'.

Maths is such an important part of everyday life. There is so much maths learning which can be reinforced all the time at home for example, telling time, using coins, weighing and measuring. Please make the most of the opportunities everyday life offers!

There are a number of educational websites such as 'maths frame' and 'top marks' which are fun and very useful to aid understanding.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Science</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Science is taught by Mrs Ballam and Miss Moore</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spring 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIGHT: SHADOWS</p> <p>In this unit the children recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light and notice that light is reflected from surfaces. They will recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object and find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change. They will learn that the light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spring 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FORCES: GRAVITY, FRICTION & MECHANISMS</p> <p>After half term our learning is about forces. They will learn that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object. They will identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces and recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">PSHE</p> <p>In spring 1 our focus is on the topic 'Safety and the changing body'. The children will show an understanding that they must consider their own safety before helping others in an emergency situation. They will understand how to help someone who has been bitten or stung. They will also be able to write an email with instructions written using positive language. They will create a decision tree showing how to deal with unkind online behaviour and cyberbullying and know some ways to avoid being tricked by fake emails.</p> <p>After half term our focus is on 'Citizenship'. The children will be able to explain that children have rights and how these benefit them. They will be able to explain the responsibilities adults have for supporting children's rights. We will learn about the benefits of recycling. The children will recognise some of the different groups within the local community and how they use local buildings they will also know how charities support the local community. They will be able to describe how democracy works locally and how this affects us. They will also recognise the need for rules and the consequences of breaking rules.</p> <p>In our collective worship focus will be on trust and truthfulness.</p> |
| <p>Languages- French</p> <p>As well as continuing to become confident with numbers up to twenty and days of the week, the children will develop the vocabulary for transport.</p> <p>Throughout this topic, they will continue to improve their knowledge of French phonemes, cognates, pronunciation and grammar through reading, writing and speaking and listening activities.</p> <p>As part of their intercultural understanding, we will also be learning about national sports.</p> | <p>PE</p> <p>Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on PE days. PE will take place on a Monday (alternate weeks) and Thursday. To begin with, they will be taught dance and gymnastics then netball and rugby after half term. We will also continue our fitness work, developing the children's fitness and stamina for running.</p> <p>We are fortunate that a specialist sports coach, Mrs Porch, will teach the Monday lesson. The children will have PE on the following Mondays:</p> <p>Monday 8th January Monday 22nd January Monday 5th February HALF TERM Monday 26th February Monday 11th March Monday 25th March</p> |
| <p>Design Technology</p> <p>This term, the children will be learning about seasonality of food and thinking about where the food we eat is grown and how it is grown. They will then have the opportunity to make foods using foods which are in season.</p> | <p>Music</p> <p>The children will be introduced to West African call and response chants. Using instruments to represent animals, copying rhythms, learning a traditional Ghanaian call and response song and recognising simple notation, progressing to creating call and response rhythms.</p> |
| <p>Computing</p> <p>In Computing this term, the children will be using unplugged activities (not using technology) and Scratch Jr on the ipads to become familiar with the terminology of programming and learn to use block programming to create algorithms (sequences of instructions) to control a sprite (character) to carry out planned tasks, breaking them down and debugging them to check for and correct errors.</p> | <p>RE</p> <p>We will begin our term, continuing with our Islam topic, learning about submission and obedience to Allah.</p> <p>We will then move onto our Hindu topic of Karma, where the children will learn about how Hindus strive to move towards God through making good choices and having good Karma.</p> |

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| <p>As part of our online safety curriculum, we will be focussing on only sharing information with people you trust and recognising that the internet is not private. We will also be looking at how to use search engines effectively.</p> | |
| <p>History</p> <p>Africa</p> <p>Our Africa topic inspires in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. The children will study the Continent's diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments. This topic expands the children's locational knowledge and will enable them to describe and understand key aspects of physical geography and human geography such as trade links. The learning will continue in other areas of the curriculum by being given the opportunity to learn African dance and drumming. In history, the children will learn about one of the earliest civilisations, that of Ancient Egypt.</p> <p>We are excited to be taking part in an Ancient Egypt workshop on Wednesday 6th March. More details to follow!</p> <p>The following threads will run through our work this term:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environment and Sustainability</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arts and Architecture</p> | <p>Art and Design</p> <p>Our art work will be linked to other areas of the curriculum including our learning about Africa</p> <p>We will further develop the use of our sketch books to collect, record and evaluate ideas.</p> <p>We will develop our drawing skills by creating a piece inspired by Massi ladies and exploring Egyptian hieroglyphs. We will develop our work in 3D by creating African masks. This term we will also develop our understanding of printing techniques and will explore African patterns.</p> |