



SQUIRRELS' NEWSLETTER TERM 4 2023-24

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a great half term and are ready for Term 4. It is so nice to see the daylight hours increase and to see our gardens slowly coming back to life.

I am not sure where the time has gone but the children have now reached the halfway point of the year! It has been wonderful to see so many of the children grow in confidence and ability.

I will continue to teach the whole class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Blunt will continue to teach the class on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Berry will teach the class on a Wednesday afternoon. We continue to be supported by Mrs Jones (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs Masters (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

If you do have any questions, comments or concerns then please do not hesitate to come and speak to me either before school or at the end of the day. You can also email me at jo.godfrey@bad.kent.sch.uk

We are all looking forward to a great new term.

Mrs Cottenden, Mrs Blunt, Mrs Jones and Mrs Masters

As a whole school, we are keen for the children to develop their independence. In Year 3, we are keen for the children to

- *Stick in their own spellings for home learning
- *Bring their reading record book into school every day
- *Go to the toilet during break times and lunch times

We thank you for your help and support with this.



Learning Overview

English - With Mrs Cottenden, we will be looking at traditional tales such as The Princess and the Pea. We will have an opportunity to write our own versions from the point of view of different characters. We will also be turning the stories into play scripts. With Mrs Blunt, the class will be looking at instructional texts and non-chronological reports. They will be looking at how to trap a dragon.

Maths - We will be concentrating on perfecting our written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division this term. This will build upon what we have already learned so far in Year 3. With Mrs Blunt, the class will be looking at measures. They will be looking at units of measurement associated with length, mass and capacity.

Science - This term the areas of Science we will be looking at include the Moon, how soil is formed, the three states of matter, simple electrical circuits, the skeleton, pollination and how muscles work.

R.E - Our key question for this term is: why are festivals important to religious communities? This unit enables pupils to begin to understand how celebration reminds believers of key beliefs and gives time to focus on beliefs and commitments and celebrating as a believing community. The focus is on the key elements of festival-shared values, story, belief and hopes and commitments.

P.E - This term the children will have PE on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**. These sessions will aim to develop their understanding of different sports and the skills required to improve (e.g. hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, agility and fitness). *Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for these sessions especially as the weather remains cooler.*

History/Geography - we will be learning about the 'Extreme Earth'. This will involve looking at volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and tornadoes. We will be exploring how they are created and the impact these have on communities and the various landscapes.

DT- We are going to be looking at torches. We will be looking at different types, how they are made and then will be making our own.

PSHE - This term we will be focusing on 'What makes a community?' We will be thinking about the different communities we belong to and the need to respect diversity.

Music - This term we are going to begin to play a musical instrument. We will be learning to play the ocarina. This is a small wind instrument with four holes that can play 11 different notes.

French- This term is 'Portraits' where the children will learn to describe themselves in French, for example their hair and eye colour etc. They will be completing a range of role-play activities, worksheets and games to support their learning.

Computing- We will be continuing with our e-safety unit before moving onto a topic called 'We are Programmers' where we will be programming our own animations. The children will learn how to edit and create their own sprites on the Scratch program and will use commands to create a short animation.



Home Learning

Spellings

Each week the children will be given spellings on a **Thursday** that need to be practised and learnt for a test the following **Tuesday**. Spellings that the children learn will be based upon learning in class as well as from the Y3 and Y4 spelling expectations. They are asked to practise each word a number of times using a variety of spelling techniques they have been taught in class. This makes up a significant part of their home learning and I do expect that the children make time to practise and learn their spellings each week. The full list for the term is included below.

Times Table Tasks

Alongside spellings, the children will be set an additional, shorter task that will be related to learning their multiplication tables and corresponding division facts. These will be based on each pupil's individual need following work in school on multiplication and division facts and through a website/ app called 'MathShed'. The children have log-ins for this in their reading record book. Once they have completed the set assignment, they are then able to practise other times tables. A good place to start is 2, 5 and 10 times tables which they learnt in Year 2. In Year Three, we review these, then begin learning the 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11 times tables. Lots of the children were using this website regularly at home last term and it has made a real difference to their speed and accuracy of recall of number facts.

Reading

Regular reading should still be taking place at home. The children can read a combination of their school reading books as well as their own books from home, the class book corner or the library. Please encourage daily reading of 15 minutes, which should be recorded in their home school record book. We will continue to change reading books on a **Monday** and a **Friday** so please make sure that their books and reading record books are in school, particularly on these days.

Additional (optional) Learning

These tasks are all linked to our Geography topic on the Extreme Earth. They are optional and do not need to be completed but will broaden their understanding of the topic.

1. Find out about Mount Vesuvius in Italy. We looked at this in Term 2 for our Literacy topic but it would be good to find out more about it. Can you create a fact-file or poster about this volcano?
2. Colour in a drawing of the Earth's layers.
3. Make a model of a volcano.
4. Put yourself in the shoes of a natural disaster victim. Describe your thoughts and feelings.
5. Make an A-Z list of words to do with natural disasters.
6. Find out about the Richter Scale and how it is used.
7. Find out about earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis that have occurred in the 2021 or so far in 2022.
8. A natural disaster is about to occur in Kent. What would you take with you when you evacuate? Write a list and explain why you have chosen these things.



Year 3 Term 4 Weekly Spelling Lists

Term 4 Week 1 Spellings - Week beginning 19.2.24

Group 1: there, their, they're, people, your

Group 2: dragon, duck, each, eat, eggs, end, even, ever, every, everyone

Group 3: guard, guide, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, increase, important, interest

Term 4 Week 2 Spellings - Week beginning 26.2.24

Group 1: put, could, house, old, day

Group 2: eyes, fast, feet, fell, find, first, fish, fly, food, fox

Group 3: automatic, autograph, autopilot, autobiography, autofocus, automobile, autocue, autonomy, island, knowledge

Term 4 Week 3 Spellings - Week beginning 4.3.24

Group 1: to, two, too, by, buy

Group 2: friends, fun, garden, gave, giant, girl, going, gone, good, gran

Group 3: superman, superstar, superior, supernatural, superficial, supernova, supermarket, superb, library, material

Term 4 Week 4 Spellings - Week beginning 11.3.24

Group 1: made, time, I'm, if, help

Group 2: grandad, great, green, grow, hard, has, hat, he's, head, home

Group 3: medicine, mention, minute natural, naughty, notice, occasion, occasionally, often, opposite

Term 4 Week 5 Spellings - Week beginning 18.3.24

Group 1: called, here, hear, off, saw

Group 2: horse, hot, how, I'll, I've, inside, its, jumped, keep, key

Group 3: ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess, possession, possible, potatoes

Term 4 Week 6 Spellings - Week beginning 25.3.24

Group 1: asked, make, take, lake, bake

Group 2: king, know, last, laughed, let, let's, liked, live, lived, long

Group 3: ache, anchor, Christmas, school, choir, echo, character, stomach, chaos, technology