

THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Spring Term Year 3 & 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here is some information about what is happening this term, which we hope you will find useful.

Topic

Year 3 will be investigating the Stone Age to the Bronze Age. Children will learn how man and his environment have changed over time. We hope to support this topic with a trip to Flag Fen in Peterborough at the end of our topic.

Year 4 will be studying some of the earliest ancient civilizations, particularly the Egyptians. They will visit the Fitzwilliam Museum and look at the Egyptian and a quick revision trip into the Roman galleries whilst they are there.

We try as much as possible to develop all of our work through our topics. This could be practising instruction writing through writing a list of what for a cave man may need to build a shelter or writing a diary as an Egyptian.

English

In Year 3 this term, our main themes will be:

- Information texts
- Instructions
- Diaries
- Story with historical settings

In Year 4 this term, our main themes will be:

- Fantasy story
- Diaries
- Recounts
- Explanation

Spelling

When learning to spell words, we recommend the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method, which involves the child looking at the word to try to memorise it, (it is often helpful to break it down into easier chunks) saying it out loud, (either sounding it out in chunks or saying the names of the letters) covering the word up and writing it, and finally checking to see if their attempt is correct. The Year 3/4 word lists have been given to the children and are being learnt in school. Please can you encourage your child to learn the words in the list.

Reading

Children are taught reading skills during the English lessons and during additional guided reading sessions. The children have reading books, which they are encouraged to bring home to enjoy with you. The discussion of reading is now a very important part of their development and a lovely activity to share. It will encourage children to retrieve information from the text as well as explain why an event may have happened. Children need to change their own books and know the times of day when it is appropriate to do so. They also need to choose appropriate books. Children benefit from practising their reading for a short time every day and we would appreciate if you could listen to them as often as possible.



Mathematics

We will be focussing on division, multiplication, fractions and position this term. Many links are made between strands of mathematics and the children are encouraged to make use of 'real' maths in everyday situations and convince others of their ideas. If you wish to help your child at home, it is always useful to practise recalling basic number facts, e.g. adding and subtracting pairs of small numbers, doubling and halving and then applying this knowledge to larger numbers. The children are doing rainbow recall each day to help with their number fluency, so any additional work will help. We also encourage the children to learn times-tables and related division facts. Children should know all their times tables and division facts by the end of Year 4!

Children have a Skoolbo account. We encourage the children to use the software to help them with their learning.

Science

In Year 3 this term the children are studying Rocks and Fossils. Children will be learning about their properties, how soils are made and where fossils come from.

In Year 4 children will be looking at States of Matter and Sound. Children will be learning about the effect of temperature on an object.

R.E

Year 3 will be looking at Christianity and the creation.
Year 4 will be looking at the importance of prayer to Muslims and hope to visit a mosque.

ICT

As well as internet safety, our focus for this term is digital literacy and looking at ways to present information. The Year 4, children will also use simulations to learn about the Egyptians. Children need to access their Starz account to allow them to use email, blogs and coding.

PSHE

In Year 3 this term your child will learn about conflict and resolution as well as anti-bullying. In Year 4, children will develop their understanding of diversity and community and receive drug education.

Music

This term, we are using recorders, drums, singing and performing songs for the production.

French

The focus this term is to build solid foundations for language learning for the future.

Children will revise all the bases (colours, numbers, alphabet, class instruction...), and they will also learn about the country and cultural aspects of this subject.

PE

This term, children will be doing ball skills and gymnastics.

The Panthers and Gorillas class will be swimming on a Friday.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for each PE lesson. They should wear navy or black shorts and a white t-shirt, and should have a **change of shoes**, either plimsolls or trainers and a pair of socks if they wear tights. They may also wear a tracksuit / jumper for outside activities. **Please try to ensure that all clothing coming to school is labelled, as this helps us return lost items to their owner. Please note the school policy of NO jewellery.**

Home Learning

Children have been given a selection of activities to choose from. Children need to choose 2 activities to complete and share with the rest of the class.

Water bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a named bottle of water each day, to have in the classroom in case they are thirsty. As a school, we promote drinking water as the healthier option, but it is also the practical choice in a classroom where spills may occur. Your child may bring in juice or squash, which they can keep on the packed lunch trolley to drink at lunchtimes.

Snacks

Children are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack, which they keep in their drawer, for playtime. A piece of fruit is ideal.

Valuables

Children should not bring anything valuable into school, unless a prior arrangement has been made with their class teacher. We advise children to keep anything that they consider precious at home.

Parent Consultations

Our Parent Consultation evenings are on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd March, which will give us an opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing. An appointment request form letter will follow nearer the time. We are also having a Year 3/4 open classroom on Wednesday 17th January for parents to come in and watch part of a lesson from 9.30 – 10.15. You will be watching a maths lesson so you need to brush up on your times tables!

Production

The children will be doing a class production this term. The dates are:

Year 4 – Tuesday 27th March at 2.00 and 6.00

Year 3 – Wednesday 28th March at 2.00 and 6.00

More details will follow nearer the time. If you know your son or daughter is not going to be in school at these times please let us know as we will not give them a speaking part.

We hope this gives you some idea of our Spring Term plans. If you have any queries or concerns about your child that you would like to discuss before Parents Evening, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to us.

Thank you for your continued support,
Year 3/4 team