



Parent/Carer notes -Spring Term 1 2019

Lower Key Stage 2 - Year 3-4



Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a great break and Father Christmas was kind to you all. Many thanks for your kind gifts, Ms Powney and I were overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity.

Poisonous potions, aromatic brews, vapour or a sticky goo... Welcome to the amazing world of potions! To start the New Year off we will begin with a BANG! (or hopefully not) during our Crazy Scientist Day.

During the course of the term, we will be reading extracts from *George's Marvellous Medicine*, we will learn all the mysterious potions and write a safety label for *Georges'* bottle. We will sort everyday items into solids, liquids and gases. Using our investigation skills, we will explore capacity and the properties of liquids. We will also design fabulous bottles for magical potions. Becoming super scientists, we will investigate chemical reactions and states of matter. The play, *Romeo and Juliet* will inspire us to write scripts and we will think of an alternative ending for this tragic tale. We will write spells with magical, strange or gruesome effects - what ingredients will we use? It will be great fun to make chocolate hearts and bath bombs!

How you can help your child prepare for this project

'Double, double toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble.' Why not hunt around the house to track down a wide variety of items and sort them into solids, liquids and gases? You could also sketch interesting bottles or containers that you have at home. Alternatively, you could try baking something new together, thinking about how the ingredients change when you mix and cook them.

Areas of Study - Potions

English:

During the course of this term our key texts will be '*George's Marvellous Medicine*' by Roald Dahl (AR Book Level 4), *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as *Macbeth* (The Shakespeare Stories Collection ISBN No: 9781408313053 Book People). These books will inspire us to write across the following genres:-

- Labels and instructions;
- Letter writing;
- Play Scripts (*Romeo and Juliet*);
- Poetry (*Macbeth*);
- Narrative (*George's Marvellous Medicine*).

We will have discrete spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons (SPAG) during our skills sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday. The learning from this will be consolidated during the week through the application of new grammatical terms and concepts within our English lessons. All children will participate in teacher-led small group guided reading and whole class shared reading comprehensions together with inference practise. In addition, spelling investigations, handwriting practise and dictionary work, using our weekly spellings, will take place throughout the week.

Maths:

Within maths we will be studying the topic of

Measurement: Length, Perimeter and Area followed by Fractions. The National Curriculum objectives we will cover are as follows:-

Year 3:

Measure, compare add and subtract lengths (m, cm, m).

Measure the perimeter of simple 2D shapes.

Continue to measure using the appropriate tools and units, progressing to using a wider range of measures, including comparing and using mixed and simple equivalent mixed units.

Recognise and use fractions as numbers - unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators.

Recognise, find and write fractions of a discrete set of objects.

Count up and down in fractions.

Recognise and show, using diagrams, equivalent fractions with small denominators.

Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator within one whole.

Year 4:

Measure and calculate the perimeter of a rectilinear figure (including squares) in cm and m.

Convert between units of measure e.g.: km to m.

Find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares. (Extend to using multiplication)

Solve problems involving fractions, calculate quantities and fractions to divide quantities.

Count up and down in fractions.

Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions.

Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.

At least three times a week, we will have a timed times table quiz using Times Table Rock Stars. This will be tailored to each child's individual learning, to include multiplication, division and missing number calculations.

Homework:

Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun, interactive and challenging way for children to develop increased fluency and mastery in answering multiplication and division questions. The aim is to answer any multiplication facts up to 12×12 in less than **3 seconds**! In order to achieve this, it is essential that your child does a little bit of times table practise every night - short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week. Therefore, children have been set 3 daily sessions in the Garage (3 minutes). These are tailored to children's individual learning as are games in the 'Arena'. Ten visits to the 'Studio' will calculate their average speed taken to answer questions. One Studio game per week has been set as homework. The aim is for children aged 9 years to answer multiplication and division questions in 3 seconds.

Reading books will come home on a daily basis. If possible, please hear your child read on a daily basis - LITTLE and OFTEN. Asking questions about the text and discussing vocabulary is extremely advantageous to assist your child's language and writing development. Why not collect 'new words' in a personal glossary and try and put them into sentences.

As soon as the children finish their reading books, they will be taking a quick computer generated multi-choice quiz to assess their understanding and comprehension relating to the book they have read. Their scores will be shared with you using Seesaw.

Children can choose their own books to read as their reading book. It is preferable for the home book to be recognised by Accelerated Reader in order for children to complete a quiz upon finishing the book (check www.arbookguide.co.uk). Furthermore, this must be checked by me or Ms Powney to ensure it is within their ZPD (zone of proximal developmental level).

Please ensure that reading books and reading diaries are brought to school every day as an adult will endeavour to hear all children read during the course of the week.

Spellings will be sent home to be learned every **Monday** in readiness for a spelling quiz the following Monday. These may be in the form of either a spelling rule investigation, or a list of words from the Year 3-4 Statutory National Curriculum Spelling List, for children to research the meaning, include in a sentence and learn the spelling. Please ensure that spelling folders are brought to school every Monday for the new set of spellings to be filed and taken home. In addition, spellings will be uploaded on Seesaw.

Equipment:

If your child would like to bring in their own pencil, pen, coloured pencils, felt tips, rubbers etc., I have no objection at all, however all stationery is available in the classroom. I would ask that pencil cases are kept to a **sensible size!** As a class we have challenged ourselves to aim for the majority of the class to earn their 'pen licence' this year, therefore a **black** handwriting pen would be beneficial (**not a biro or ink cartridge please**).

PE Kit:

To ensure that all children can fully participate in PE lessons, please ensure that they have their 'named' PE and Games kits in school throughout the term, earrings are removed and hair tied back. Our PE sessions are scheduled for Mondays (indoors) and Tuesdays (outdoor games).

The correct PE kit includes:

PE - PE T-Shirt, blue shorts and plimsolls.

Games - Plain T-shirt, a warm top, jogging bottoms, socks and **trainers**. Games kits should be kept separate from PE kits as they are likely to get muddy.

Please refer to the Spring Term 1 Topic Web for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to either speak to me at the end of the day when I will be on the playground, or leave a message with Mrs Martin, who can be found on the playground every morning and I will contact you.

With kind regards,

Glenda Philpott

Willow Class