



YEAR 3/4 SPRING TERM 2017 - CURRICULUM LETTER

Welcome back from the Y3/4 Team

We hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and are enjoying the New Year. We have lots of exciting things planned this term. Our first topic has a **history** focus and is called '**Invaders and Thieves**' and is based on the Anglo- Saxons. Steve Manning, a local story-teller and role-play expert, will be coming in to lead workshops based on the invasion and daily life of the Anglo-Saxons. Then, after half term, we will study a **geography** unit to teach map skills called '**New Directions**'. This topic will take us on a field trip navigating from Haytor to Houndtor near Widecombe.

Literacy

We will be teaching literacy in two blocked units of work based on '**The Tear Thief**' (narrative texts and play scripts) and '**Until I met Dudley**' (explanation texts). Guided reading will link where possible to the lead text. In addition, there will be regular lessons on the basic skills of spelling, punctuation, handwriting and grammar.

Maths

All areas of mathematics will be covered. Teaching will include practical activities, formal and informal methods as well as maths across the curriculum. Children will be taught and challenged in response to their understanding and confidence with each topic.

Science

We will be studying Light, Electricity and Magnetism in our topic '**Glowmotion**'. The children will have weekly lessons which will allow plenty of hands-on learning and investigation.

Other Curriculum

RE – 'Symbols' and 'Religious Expression'.

Art – paper and fabric weaving, sewing Saxon brooches, sketching and painting Dartmoor based on the work of a local artist.

Design and Technology – design and make a torch, preparing and cooking foods for a Saxon Feast.

Computing – 'We Are Communicators' and 'We Are Network Engineers'.

Music – singing, playing and listening to folk music, tempo, dynamics and standard notation.

French - sentence building, masculine nouns, verbs, adverbs, punctuation, spelling, phonic songs, rhymes and stories.

P.E.

Our outdoor PE is **invasion games** with a focus on netball until half term and then **outdoor education** with a focus on Team Work and Orienteering Skills after half term. Our indoor PE will be **gymnastics** throughout the term and the children will gradually build up the skills and confidence to perform routines. **Please make sure the children have P.E. kits in school on each day of the week.** PE days sometimes have to be changed and kits are often needed for other activities. We encourage the children to wear house-coloured polo shirts which are available from the office (alternatively white polo shirts) and correctly fitting trainers, not plimsolls, as they provide better support for their feet and ankles and can withstand sustained outdoor use. All PE kit should be labelled so that mislaid items can be returned quickly.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Thursday and collected in the following Tuesday, giving teachers enough time to mark the children's books, before returning them with new homework. On most occasions homework will be related to work completed in school. Spellings are introduced on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Please ensure you continue to hear your child read regularly from a range of sources – the internet, comics and brochures, as well as fiction and non-fiction books. Do comment regularly in your child's planner, it is helpful for us to know what and how often your child is reading.

Film Consent

To enhance the children's learning, we occasionally find it useful to show clips/entire films to understand how atmosphere is created, how things work or to demonstrate life in a particular era. Often these are not rated **U**, thus we ask your permission to show such films. We would like to assure you that any material used has been viewed by staff first and checked for suitability. We ask that if you have any queries, or do not wish your child to see these materials, that you let us know. If we hear nothing, we will assume that this is OK.

DATES IN ADVANCE

13.1.17- Steve Manning Story Teller

9.2.17- Saxon Feast and Dress Up Day

28.2.17- Stoats class assembly

28.3.17- M and M Theatre Productions – 'The Railway Children'

30.3.17- Haytor to Houndtor Trip

Any questions or comments, please come in and see us or write a note in your child's planner.
Best wishes, the Year 3/4 Team.