



Phase 3 Newsletter Summer Term

Welcome to the start of the summer term. We trust you all had a restful Easter break and enjoyed the sunshine. As usual, this newsletter will outline information for the coming term. Please keep this letter to hand as, unlike the younger phases, there is no weekly note. Any new information you need will be passed on through the children - this encourages independence and organisational skills. We will also continue to send additional information via Parentpay, when needed.

Theme for the Term

This term we will be learning about **The Maya** - wonderfully, our topic title is '**Chocolate**'. We will learn about the Mayan civilisation, where it fits in history, how they lived and their most significant discoveries – mathematics and chocolate!

Alongside this, we will be comparing the geography of the Americas and making comparisons with the geography of England – specifically Yorkshire. We will look at the physical geography of both areas for example, climate, vegetation, rivers and mountains and the human geography for example types of settlement, land use and trade.

Our **art** will focus on pencil drawings, collage and combining digital and hand created images. The theme will be chocolate and will involve work inspired by chocolate bars and their wrappers. We will be asking for some examples of wrappers – the perfect excuse to indulge in a bar or two!

In **DT**, we will be exploring **food preparation** including the use of seasonal foods. We will learn techniques and methods used in baking and then plan and prepare an afternoon tea, ready for our jubilee celebration at the end of May.



In **English**, we will be learning about **stories, poetry and non-chronological writing**. We will continue with our daily 'Vocab Ninja' sessions, where we learn a new word each day and challenge ourselves to write a sentence using the word as well as use the words in our other work during the week. The number of new words we learn over the course of the term is impressive and the children are always keen to use as many as they can in their daily sentences. We will also continue with our **SPAG** work (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and learn about how to use language such as fronted adverbials and noun phrases and punctuation such as speech marks and commas.

We will be enjoying some **novels** and other **shorter texts** linked to the theme of the Maya, chocolate and The Americas. These books will also be the basis of some of our **guided reading** sessions as we explore the stories, make predictions and respond to what we have read.

Year 4 will be reading **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl.

Year 5 will be reading **The Explorer** by Katherine Rundell and Year 6 will be reading **Holes** by Louis Sachar.

In **RE**, Year 4 will be exploring **what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today**. Year 5 will be studying **what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today** and year 6 will be exploring the question '**What matters most to Christians and Humanists?**'



The whole school focus for our **PSHE** is **relationships** and explores the characteristics of positive relationships and how to build and maintain them.

Our **PE** this term is **striking and fielding games** and **athletics**. All classes will continue to have dance sessions with Miss Havercroft each week. Due to classes missing their swimming entitlement because of COVID, Year 5 and Year 6 will swim this term. This will take place on a Tuesday afternoon at Archbishop Holgate's School and the classes will be arranged into groups – each being taught by a qualified swimming teacher. (Year 4 will have their opportunity to go swimming next year.)

In addition to their two PE sessions, Year 4 will have 4 additional sessions for this half term, when York City Knights will be teaching basic tag rugby skills. This will be on a Monday afternoon.

Please ensure that a FULL PE kit for both indoor and outdoor sessions is in school every week. Last term, there were several children who did not have their full kit for PE sessions. This makes it extremely difficult for staff who have to spend the first part of each lesson hunting round for spare kit. Kits should remain in school until they are sent home to wash - this helps to ensure that children have the kit they need for each session.

This half term PE days will be:

For Year 4, Monday with York Knights Tuesday with Mr Holmes and Wednesday with Miss Havercroft.

For Year 5, Tuesday swimming, Wednesday with Miss Havercroft, Friday with Mr Holmes

For Year 6, Tuesday swimming, Wednesday with Miss Havercroft

All classes will continue to enjoy **forest schools** at different times throughout the term – not necessarily every week. Children will be told when their class will be visiting the forest but kits and wellies must be in school at all times. We will also have our annual **Outdoor Learning Week** and will plant and grow crops in the raised beds at the back of school.



Homework

The aim of homework is to practise key skills as well as develop organisational skills, discipline and independence. Please support your child by encouraging them to develop a routine for completing activities and handing work in.



Reading

All children should be reading as often as possible. A few minutes each day is ideal - anything more is a bonus! As your child becomes more fluent, they may be reluctant to read aloud. Please continue to encourage them to spend time reading, talk with them about the story, characters, favourite parts etc and ask them to read a small amount out loud to you to give you a taste of what they are reading. Please record in your child's planner when they have read. Planners must be signed at least three times per week.

Maths

Maths homework each week will be set on TTRockstars. Year 4 will have focus times tables to practise each week in any way they wish Times tables recall is a fundamental foundational skill in maths and it is important that children can quickly recall times tables facts up to 12 x 12. **Every child should know all the times tables off by heart by the end of Year 4.** TTRockstars is a fun but extremely effective way of helping children develop their recall and speed.



In Year 4, the children take a statutory times table check in the summer term, with results reported to the Local Education Authority. There will be a short information meeting at 5pm on Tuesday 10th May via Zoom, explaining how the check is implemented. In school, we regularly work on times tables knowledge and recall, but spending time on TTRockstars at home supports your child's learning. If it is difficult for your child to spend time on TTRockstars at home, Mr Sharpe runs a TTRockstars club on a Thursday lunchtime each week.

Phase 3 Homework Menu – Spring Term

Please complete one activity a week. These are more activities than weeks in the term – you do not need to complete all of them and there may be some you want to repeat. Each week, please sign and date the homework and send the book into school even if there is no work in it.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Be a Reader Spend 10 minutes reading to your child every day. Use the book of your choice. You can choose to read to your child or let them read to you. You can also choose to read together. You can also choose to read to your child in a different way. You can also choose to read to your child in a different way. You can also choose to read to your child in a different way.</p> | <p>Be a Writer Write a story or poem. You can choose to write a story or poem. You can also choose to write a story or poem. You can also choose to write a story or poem. You can also choose to write a story or poem. You can also choose to write a story or poem.</p> | <p>Be a Scientist Do a science experiment. You can choose to do a science experiment. You can also choose to do a science experiment. You can also choose to do a science experiment. You can also choose to do a science experiment. You can also choose to do a science experiment.</p> |
| <p>Be a Mathematician Do a maths activity. You can choose to do a maths activity. You can also choose to do a maths activity. You can also choose to do a maths activity. You can also choose to do a maths activity. You can also choose to do a maths activity.</p> | <p>Be a Musician Play an instrument. You can choose to play an instrument. You can also choose to play an instrument. You can also choose to play an instrument. You can also choose to play an instrument. You can also choose to play an instrument.</p> | <p>Be a Historian Learn about a historical event. You can choose to learn about a historical event. You can also choose to learn about a historical event. You can also choose to learn about a historical event. You can also choose to learn about a historical event.</p> |
| <p>Be a Geographer Learn about a geographical location. You can choose to learn about a geographical location. You can also choose to learn about a geographical location. You can also choose to learn about a geographical location. You can also choose to learn about a geographical location.</p> | <p>Be a Designer Design something. You can choose to design something. You can also choose to design something. You can also choose to design something. You can also choose to design something. You can also choose to design something.</p> | <p>Be a Artist Draw a picture. You can choose to draw a picture. You can also choose to draw a picture. You can also choose to draw a picture. You can also choose to draw a picture. You can also choose to draw a picture.</p> |

Topic

A new homework menu will be sent home soon. As usual, please encourage your child to choose an activity each week to complete. The activities are open-ended and are designed so that children can approach them in a way they enjoy and choose how much time they would like to spend on the activities.

Homework can be recorded in the homework book or can be a purely practical activity. Whatever your child does each week, please sign and date the menu and send the homework book back each week.

| Homework | Goes home | Hand in |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Reading | Daily | Daily |
| Maths | Monday | Monday |
| Topic/menu | Wednesday | Monday |

Visit to The Chocolate Story

This term, we are hoping to organise a visit to The Chocolate Story in the centre of York. More information will follow.

Dates for the Diary – more details of each event will be communicated nearer the time

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday 2 nd May | BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED |
| WB 9 th May | Y6 Statutory Tests (SATs) |
| Friday 13 th May | Y6 to The Outgang for the day. |
| Tuesday 10 th May | 5pm Y4 Parent/carer Information Meeting – Times Table Check (via Zoom) School closes for Half term |
| Thursday 26 th May | Jubilee Celebration Event – 2-7pm SCHOOL FINISHES FOR HALF TERM |
| Monday 6 th June | School reopens after half term |
| Friday 17 th June | Whole school sports fun morning |
| WB 27 th June | Outdoor Learning Week |
| Friday 1 st July | Phase 2 and 3 sports at the University |
| Tuesday 12 th July | Phase 3 show – afternoon performance |
| Wednesday 13 th July | Phase 3 show – evening performance |
| Thursday 14 th July | Year 6 Leavers Party |
| Friday 15 th July | Reports sent home to parents |
| Wednesday 20 th July | Transition day – children visit new classes |
| Friday 22 nd July | Year 6 Leavers' assembly 2pm start END OF SUMMER TERM |



As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Rachel Carr Lydia Hiles Helen Smith

Emma Havercroft Julika Matravers Annette Lee

The Phase 3 Team