

Welcome to Year 4 – Puffins & Curlews

General

Mr Jackson and Mr Green would like to welcome you to the 2021 - 2022 academic year. This leaflet is designed to give you a brief overview of your child's school life over the coming year in terms of our expectations, as well as providing you some insight into the topics we will cover. There are two formal parents' evenings in the year, but if at any other time you need a chat with the teacher, please let us know, and we can make an appointment for a time that suits us both.

English

As in previous years, English is taught for one hour a day with extra time dedicated to reading, spelling and handwriting. The children will explore a wide range of text types during the year and their reading and writing skills will also be developed and extended through their topics. The children will read in school, but not necessarily on an individual basis. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that the children practise reading at home on a regular basis and they can record books they have read in their home-school diaries. We would hope that they can build their stamina of reading by the end of the year to 25 minutes sustained reading. Please feel free to use their diaries to record any comments you may have and remind your child to give their diary to their teacher when they come into school.



Big Writing will normally take place once every second week, however we will be doing an alternate piece of extended writing based on another area of the curriculum at the end of each topic. Ten spellings for each week are introduced on a Monday. Some will follow a pattern which will be explored during the week with investigations and taught spelling sessions; others will be statutory (tricky) words. They will be tested on a Monday. If you have an iPad or android device have a look at the 'Super Speller' app ; a great way for children to practise their spellings at home in a fun, yet educational way.

Maths

Maths is also taught daily. Our aim is to ensure that the children are confident handling numbers and completing calculations and that they progress to the next step, only when their understanding of the current step is completely secure. They may often use strategies that are unfamiliar to you. If you are ever unsure or want further clarification about the methods they are using, please don't hesitate to see us.



In school they will develop their skills through a mixture of activities, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities and games. Every Monday they will complete a times tables test which we would like you to support them with at home.

In their homework they may be given a main maths activity with an option to extend this. This echoes the class structure where, in a lesson, children will select a bronze or silver activity as their starting point and then progress to a gold challenge when they feel ready. There is a large selection of maths games online that support learning in maths ; in particular those that improve children's mental speed and recall are 'Hit the Button' and 'Times Table Rock Stars' which are just two that we recommend.

Topic Work

In the Creative Curriculum we will be covering the following topics : "The Northern Lights", "Rhythm of the Rain", "Settlers", "Saxons and Vikings", "Ivybridge" and "The Egyptians". Through these topics we will cover: Science, Geography, History, Art & D.T. , Computing, RE, PE, MFL and Music.



Timetable Commitments:

Swimming - TBC

PE

Curlews and Puffins: Wednesday & Thursday



P.E. Kit

Children should come to school in their PE kit on the nominated PE day.

For P.E. the children should wear black shorts and a white T-shirt. Each child also needs a pair of trainers and a marked bag in which these may be kept. For outdoor games children may bring a tracksuit to wear in cold weather. All kit should be clearly named. Earrings are not allowed during PE lessons and children are encouraged to look after them.

Homework

Homework is set on Dojo on a Wednesday and due in the following Monday. Each task should take no more than 10 - 15 minutes. If it is taking your child more than this time please stop them and make a note in their homework book. Homework can be submitted to Dojo or photographed. If homework is not handed in by Monday, there may not be time to mark it. If homework is not completed your child may be invited to join the homework club.

Media

We have a very high media profile but if you do not wish your child's photo to be published, either in the papers, on Dojo or web site, please let your class teacher or the office know in writing. Alternatively the consent form can be found on the school website. We take the children's safety very seriously at Stowford and appreciate your support at home to ensure that children remain safe whilst online and also start to become more responsible and confident.



Clubs

Throughout the year, we encourage the children to participate in a **wide range of clubs** after school and it's important that once a child has signed up to a club, they continue it for the duration of the club.

We hope that the children make a great start to **Year 4** and settle in well and we are looking forward to an exciting and productive year. If you do have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to come in and see us. Many thanks Mr Jackson and Mr Green.

Dear Parents / Carers,



Today we have given the children in Year 4 the first 10 spellings that are on the Year 3/4 statutory word list. This is a list of common words that children in Year 3 and 4 are expected to spell. They are words that don't necessarily follow the rules and patterns of other words in the English language and so we teach them differently. For example we may look at the root word, make up a story about the word, look at the shape it makes and associate it to the word, or

create a funny way of remembering it. We look at the sounds or parts of the word that are tricky and pay attention to that.

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to have learnt all of these words and will be tested on them. We will give them out at different weeks throughout the Year. We will also be having daily spelling lessons on these words and a weekly test on a Monday.

Please could you help your child by looking at these words (and of course all the other spellings) closely, paying particular attention to the tricky part or sound. You will be able to see their weekly spelling scores in the back of their home school diary and any mistakes they may have made.

We are also going to be going through the times tables as this again is something that the children in Year 4 must know and be able recall (at speed). Again there is a statutory test at the end of Year 4 where there are 25 random times tables to attempt in a few seconds (per question).

We will teach the times tables in the classroom throughout the Year and there will be lots of opportunity for the children to practise them. We recommend "Hit the Button" which is a great free online app as well as "Times Tables Rock Stars". This could be daily practice.

Children will be given 6 multiplication facts to learn each week for the first two terms. We will start with the 2 times tables and then progress through; 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x, 8x, 11x, 12x, 9x, 6x, 7x and 8x. Children will be expected to be able to recall them at speed and not rely on counting on their fingers. Please could you support your child in their learning of the times tables? If they are confident in basic recall eg $3 \times 4 = ?$ you can always turn these into a division eg $12 / 4 = ?$ etc as this is a really good way to consolidate learning.

There will be a weekly times tables test on a Monday and you will be able to see how the children got on, in their home school diary and perhaps go over the facts that they were not so confident with.

Please feel free to come and speak to either of us about spellings and times tables and any issues that you may have so that we can find a way to best support you at home.

Many thanks.

Mr Green and Mr Jackson

