

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year – we hope you had a good summer holiday. We can already report that the children have made a good start and are settling in well. This year, each class will be named after an inspirational person– Year 4 is ‘David Attenborough’.

This half term we will be studying:

Geography: Key question: ‘Why are jungles so wet and deserts so dry?’

We will be focusing on the Amazon Rainforest and some well-known subtropical deserts; Sahara, Kalahari; Gobi...We will also be learning that the Arctic and Antarctic are classed as deserts even though they are extremely cold.

English

We will start the term with a narrative unit on Horrid Henry. The children will be exposed to a range of stories with familiar settings, focusing on humour and stories where the characters have a ‘flaw’. They will orally learn the structure of this story and innovate the text to help them write their own stories. They will recap how to use expanded noun phrases and learn how to use adverbials of time, place and manner, as well as prepositions, to help them write detailed character and setting descriptions. The children will also write a diary entry and will write in role as a character from a Horrid Henry story.

The remainder of the term will be a Non-fiction letter writing unit. They will learn the structures of formal letters and will focus on paragraphing their sentences. The children will write to David Attenborough to ask questions and comment on his conservation work, and hopefully we will receive a response.

Poetry will also be taught alongside our Art lessons which will focus on storytelling through drawing.

Weekly spellings will indicate the spelling rule that we are focussing on, as well as the statutory common exception words we have covered.

Reading will be taught in differentiated groups and during whole class sessions. We will also endeavour to hear children read individually as frequently as possible.

Mathematics

This term we will be recapping and progressing in Number (Place Value; Addition and Subtraction). We will continue to develop our fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills. Please support your child with his/her calculation skills and continue to encourage your child to learn the key addition facts, times tables facts and learn to tell the time.

Times Tables

In previous years, children have been learning the following times tables: x2, x3, x4, x5, x9, x10.

This year, we will be adding to these by learning the x6, x7, x8, x11 and x12 times tables

By the end of the year, children in Year 4 should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.

Please continue to encourage your child to practise their times tables at home. There is a link to the ‘Times Tables Rockstars’ website on the school website which will take you to the login page.

The children will carry out the DFE Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) online test in June 2023. They will answer 25 questions on multiplication and division facts up to and including 12 x 12. The pupils will have **6 seconds** to answer each question so they need to be able to recall them quickly. The check will take each pupil less than 5 minutes to complete. At the end of the assessment window, a total score out of 25 will be reported to each school for all of the children who took the check.

Thank you for your continued support, effort and enthusiasm in helping your children to learn their tables.



Science

This term's topic is: 'Living things and their habitats' which links in well with our Geography theme.

We will be learning how to:

- Sort living things into groups.
- Generate questions about animals.
- See similarities and differences between vertebrates.
- Identify vertebrate groups.
- Identify the characteristics of living things.
- Suggest how to have a positive effect on the local environment.
- Record observations on a map.
- Name some endangered species.

RE

This term we will be studying Christianity. We will start the unit by placing the concepts of God and Creation on a timeline of the Bible's 'Big Story'. The children will reflect upon their own opinions of natural beauty within the world and explore how this can be different for us all. We will then use the Bible to look at Genesis 1 and make links between what is written and what Christians believe about God and creation. We will conclude the unit by discussing why the creation story is important for Christians living today and how their view of God as the 'creator' influences how they behave.

PSHE Jigsaw: Being Me in My World: In this Puzzle (unit), the children explore being part of a team. They talk about attitudes and actions and their effects on the whole class. The children learn about their school and its community, who all the different people are and what their roles are. They discuss democracy and link this to their own School Council, what its purpose is and how it works. The children learn about group work, the different roles people can have, how to make positive contributions, how to make collective decisions and how to deal with conflict. They also learn about considering other people's feelings. They refresh their Jigsaw Charter and set up their Jigsaw Journals.

Computer Science

This term we will be learning about 'The Internet'. During this unit learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet and be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

We will also look closely at how help to keep ourselves safe online with a particular focus on how we present ourselves and our mental well-being.

Spelling

This term we will be learning the spelling patterns/prefixes: augh, au, in-, im-, il-, homophones, and sion. The children will also be given some of the statutory Year 3/4 spellings to learn each term. These will be included within weekly spelling lists.

Homework

Please encourage your child to read at home for at least 15 minutes every day; questioning them to check that they have understood what they have read – please record comments in their reading record book.

We would also like them to practise times tables either verbally or on TTRS, on a regular basis – there is a times tables practice test every Monday.

New spellings are also given out on a Friday, and these will be tested the following Friday, giving them a week to learn them.

Other Maths and English activities, as well as topic/Science work, will be given out to complete at home, as and when required.

All of this will be outlined further on a document stuck inside your child's homework book as a reference point for dates etc.

Spelling and Times Tables will be communicated to you via DOJO on a weekly basis. Please let us know if you wish to have a paper copy instead.

P.E.

Outdoor PE – please ensure that your child comes into school on Mondays in their P.E. kit. All children are allowed to



wear tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt over their shorts and T-shirts, if the weather is not so good. Trainers should also be worn, rather than school shoes.

Some children will be swimming this term, instead of doing outside P.E. but should still come to school in their P.E. kit and bring their swimming costume/trunks, a towel and goggles if required. The parents/carers of the children who are swimming have been notified.

Long hair should be tied back and earrings removed or taped over for PE. If for any reason, your child is not able to take part in PE please send a note in to advise us, otherwise we will expect them to take part.

We would like to remind children that jewellery (other than a wristwatch and stud earrings) and nail varnish are not permitted. Please ensure that all items of uniform, including coats, are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Although the water fountains have now been reinstated, it would still be a good idea for your child to bring in a refillable bottle, filled with water, on a daily basis – it can be refilled at school if necessary.

On Friday afternoons, Year 4 children will continue to practise the recorder – please ensure that your child brings their recorder in to school on Fridays.

We look forward to a busy and exciting term ahead. Please do make contact with us if you have any queries or concerns about your child this term. We look forward to meeting you and working with you this year.

Kind regards,

Ms Warner and Mrs Abbott

p.s. Please find attached the Science, Geography and R.E. vocabulary for this term.

