

# Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you had a lovely Easter break!

This term we will be studying:

**Topic: History – Vikings** - What did the Vikings want and how did Alfred help to stop them getting it? This investigation assists pupils to distinguish historical facts from myth, folklore and legend in relation to the people commonly referred to today as 'the Vikings', but who never shared or would have recognised that collective identity. We will be investigating who the Vikings were, where they came from and how they affected life in England during the Anglo-Saxon period.

## English

This term we are starting with 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by Joe Todd-Stanton which is a story about a Viking adventure linking to our history topic. We will be focusing on different characteristics and how they are described in a text. The children will move on to writing short stories – in the third and first person; a diary entry and a persuasive letter, all based around this text.

We will emphasise the need to use a range of punctuation, paragraphs and complex descriptive sentences in their writing. There will be a focus on how to use apostrophes for contraction and possession, and expanded noun phrases – which will help with character descriptions.

There will be daily spelling and SPAG lessons. We will be learning how to use specific spelling rules. In addition, we will continue to learn the statutory spellings on the Y3 & Y4 wordlist. Please see the word list for this term's spellings and the spellings from the statutory spelling list. Some children will have different spellings linked to further phonics skills – these will be given out on a weekly basis.

Please encourage your child to read at home for at least 15 minutes daily as part of their homework; questioning them to check that they have understood what they have read. They can also continue to read books, of their own choice, at home and where possible take quizzes on Scholastic Reading Plus.

## Mathematics

This term we will continue work on fractions and decimals; using adding, subtracting, multiplying and division skills. We will also continue to develop Fluency, Reasoning and Problem Solving skills. Please support your child with his/her calculation skills and continue to encourage your child to learn key addition/subtraction facts, times tables facts and with learning to tell the time. If the children are secure with fractions and decimals, we will move on to measurement, including money and time, and statistics.

## Times Tables

As times tables knowledge is such an essential aspect in maths, it is important that the children continue to practise and learn them. Please encourage your child to practise them regularly at home as part of their homework. We have a weekly X tables test on Mondays.

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



As I mentioned in last term's letter, the children will carry out the DFE (Department for Education) Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) online test in June 2021. They will answer 25 questions on multiplication up to and including 12 x 12. The pupils will have **6 seconds** to answer each question so they need 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 children who take part in the check.

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

## Science

This term we are studying 'Scientists and Inventors'. This unit will teach the children about famous scientists and inventors linked to the Y4 science curriculum. They will learn about the dangers posed to living things in Madagascar, and Gerald Durrell's conservation efforts on the island. The children will learn about Alexander Graham Bell and his invention of the telephone, as well as modern improvements on his invention by inventors like James West. They will create and present an interactive poster about his life and work. Children will look at the early uses of solar energy in homes, invented and built by Maria Telkes and Eleanor Raymond, then build their own basic solar oven.

The many inventions of Garrett Morgan will be looked at, followed by children building and evaluating their own traffic lights using basic electrical circuits. They will find out about the discovery of oxygen and carry out an experiment to investigate the effects of oxygen on burning objects. Furthermore, they will learn about Lord Kelvin, the man who determined the temperature of absolute zero. The children will explore the work of Thomas Edison, carrying out an electricity hunt around school. Finally, children will find out about the invention of toothpaste, and will invent their own brand of toothpaste to compare against real brands. They will develop their scientific enquiry skills, making observations, predictions and conclusions.

## RE- 'Hinduism' – What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

This unit enables pupils to learn about the key aspects of Hindu belief and worship. What we call Hinduism is the diverse way of life, spiritual practices and beliefs of the Indian people. We are focusing on British Hinduism as well as the original Indian Humanism. Hinduism is more appropriately called 'Sanatana Dharma' eternal truth. We will find out about some key Hindu beliefs and how these are expressed in thoughts and actions. We will also think about being a Hindu in Britain today.

## PSHE: Relationships – There are six lessons based on these themes: Jealously, Love and loss, Memories, Getting on and Falling Out, Girlfriends and Boyfriends, Celebrating my Relationships with People and Animals.

In this unit, children learn about the importance of self-esteem and ways this can be boosted. This is important in an online context as well as off-line, as mental health can be damaged by excessive comparison with others. This leads onto a series of lessons that allow the children to investigate and reflect upon a variety of positive and negative online/ social media contexts including gaming and social networking. They learn about age-limits and also age-appropriateness. Within these lessons, children are taught the SMARRT internet safety rules and they apply these in different situations. Risk, pressure and influences are revisited with a focus on the physical and emotional aspects of identifying when something online or in social media feels uncomfortable or unsafe. Children are taught about grooming and how people online can pretend to be whoever they want. Rights, responsibilities and respect are revisited with an angle on technology use. Screen time is also discussed and children find ways to reduce their own screen time. This Puzzle aims to help children to be more discerning when viewing anything online or on social media.

## Computer Science

This term, our topic is 'Programming A – Repetition in shapes'.

This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming. Pupils will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.



**Internet Safety** lessons this term will include teaching and learning about: **Online Relationships** – learn to develop strategies to build positive relationships in online communities; **Online Reputation** – learn to develop strategies to manage personal digital content effectively; **Online Bullying** – learn to develop strategies for effective reporting and intervention and considers how bullying and other aggressive behaviour relates to legislation.

### Homework

Maths, Literacy/Topic work to be given out on a Wednesday to be returned by the following Monday.

Daily reading for at least 15 minutes.

Practise X tables three times a week.

Practise weekly spellings.

Monday: **Times tables test**

Friday: **Spelling test.**

### P.E.

Friday: **Swimming**

Please send your child in with their swimming costume and towel. They may wear PE kit into school on Fridays, as this will make it easier for them to get changed at Tides. Children with long hair should have it tied back or worn under a swimming cap.

If for any reason, your child is not able to take part in swimming lessons please send a note to let us know, otherwise we expect all children to take part.

We would like to remind you that jewellery (other than a wristwatch) and nail varnish are not permitted in school. Also, please ensure that all items of clothing including hats, scarves, gloves, coats and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name.

### Dates to remember:

End of Term 5 – Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>

School Bank Holiday – Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>

Start of Term 6 – Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup>

We are looking forward to a busy, exciting term ahead. Please do come to see us at the end of the day if you have any queries or concerns about your child this term.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Sarah Warner, Jenny Abbott, Claudia Clugston, Jill Holman & Amanda Tyson.

