

## Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

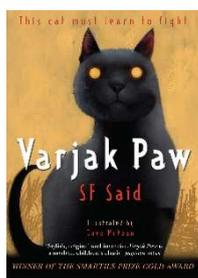
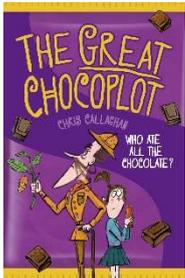
Welcome back! And welcome to your new class...Deer! Although, everything is still a little different I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are fully rested in preparation for the busy but fun term ahead. I know it has been a long time since we were in the classroom together and I can't wait to teach you all again in Year 4.

Hopefully, we will get to continue learning together in the classroom but if we do have to go back to home learning we will go straight back onto Showbie. You were all super stars at this and we will do the same again if needed. I hope everyone will settle into the new normal at school and enjoy the lessons that are to come.



## Reading and English

Reading in school can take many forms and children in Deer class will take part in a range of reading activities including formal group reading sessions, reading comprehensions and as an integrated part of lessons. A big emphasis is placed on encouraging children to become confident independent readers who can read a wide range of literature and gain a secure understanding of what is being read. As the children are now unable to take books home from school, all children will select a book from the classroom that they have to read within class daily. Therefore, it is also encouraged that the children have a separate reading book at home to read at home choosing books that are suitably challenging and engaging.

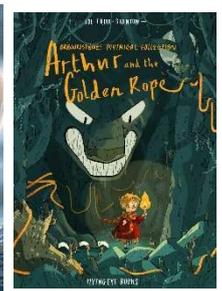
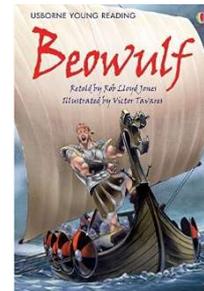


Reading for pleasure is of huge significance, with the increased amount of time the average child spends on screen time the amount of time children will sit quietly and read is significantly reducing, this not only has an impact on their ability to read fluently and with stamina and pace but is having an impact on children's oral and written language too. The more we encourage and model reading behaviour the greater impact on them we will have. Therefore, this term we will have 30 minutes of story time daily, where I will be reading 'The Great Chocoplot' by Chris Callaghan and 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said for the children to listen to for pleasure and immerse themselves in a range of texts.

Please encourage your child to read at home and take the time to question and discuss what they have read. This questioning will deepen the children's understanding of what they read and this will in turn increase their enjoyment of books so that they can read more complex texts.

The class texts for this half term will be 'Beowulf' retold by Rob Lloyd Jones (we will also use extracts from Michael Morpurgo's version) and 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by Joe Todd-Stanton. These stories link with our History focus for the half term 'The Saxons and Vikings'. These books are rich in historical language and will enable us to immerse ourselves in the tales of the time. We will be using many different mediums to develop writing techniques and deepen our understanding of English techniques.

This year to encourage the children to read a range of texts we will 'read around the world'. The book covers are displayed in the classroom on a world map to show where in the world the story is set. The challenge is to see how many of these books your child can read and I will add new books each term. We are trying to get all of the books from a local library so that the children will have access to these books in the classroom to read. The recommended reads for our 'Read around the world display' can be found on our class page. Where will your reading take you this year?



## Maths

As Mathematicians we will begin the term focusing on the place value of numbers up to 10,000 and we will learn how to add and subtract 4-digit numbers. In the second half of the term we will look at using length and perimeter before moving onto multiplication and division.

By the end of Year 4 the children need to know all of their times tables so it is important that the children are practicing their times tables at home daily as well as in class through going on TTRS.

## Curriculum

This year we are going to be teaching the curriculum in blocks so for example we will cover our science lessons over 2 weeks instead of one science lesson every week. Hopefully, this will help the children to fully engage in a subject and then we will revisit to check their understanding.

As Historians, we will revisit the departure of the Romans and then learn about the Anglo- Saxons and the Vikings through answering these questions:

- The Anglo-Saxon and Viking big picture: What happened and when?
- Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from? And Why did they come to Britain?
- What kingdoms were formed by the Anglo-Saxons?
- How did religion influence kingdoms and the way of life? And How do we know this?
- When did the Vikings raid Britain?
- Where did the Vikings invade and settle?
- What peace was agreed between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings?
- What happened to the Vikings in England?
- Why did the Normans and Vikings all think they had the right to the Kingdom of England?

In Geography children will learn about rivers in the second half of the term.

As Scientists the children will explore living things learning about habitats this half term. Hopefully, this will allow for some good opportunities to work in some quality outdoor learning. These are the questions we will be answering:

- What are the characteristic of living things?
- What animals are vertebrates?
- What animals are invertebrates?
- What groups are plants classified in?
- What is classification? And How do I use a key?
- What happens if the environment in a habitat changes?

Then in the second half of the term we will learn all about electricity.

In Art and Design, the children will begin by using formal elements building on the use of texture and pattern. We will be developing our skills through lessons on; charcoal mark making, playdough printing, stamp printing, reflection and symmetry and creating the flower of life. Afterwards, the children will learn and develop their skills in: design, drawing, craft, painting and art appreciation; creating an optical illusion print, replicating a plate in the famous willow pattern, carving sculptures out of soap, drawing a collection of still life objects, painting and mixing colours like Paul Cézanne and learning about the role of a 'curator.

In DT we will learn how to adapt a recipe with a focus on biscuits. This will include a 'Biscuit Bake off' at the end of our unit which I can't wait for. 😊 Then in the second half term the children will apply their scientific understanding of electrical circuits to create a torch made from easily available materials and objects. They will also design and evaluate their product against set design criteria

In Music, we will be using Charanga and excitedly our first song to focus on is Mamma Mia where we will listen and appraise ABBA hits then play, improvise and compose using the song Mamma Mia. After we will be exploring and developing our skills to play the Glockenspiel as well as learning how to read noted music.

In Computing, we will begin to understand computer systems and networks through learning about the internet. Then in the second half of the term we will focus on creating media through learning about digital recording, creating a podcast and editing audio to evaluate.

In RE the children will study Buddhism in the first half term and celebration around the world in the second half term.

This year French will be taught by a specialist language teacher Madam Moden, who will be coming in half termly on a Wednesday morning. Once again, the children are fortunate to be taught a foreign language by a specialist French teacher, having 45 minutes every session.

## PE

For this term, **Deer class will have PE on a Wednesday and a Thursday.** Wednesday's session will be outside with Premier Sports and Thursday's session will be outside with myself. The outdoor sessions this term will look to focus on football and hockey. During these lessons, the children will improve skills of: travel, travel with, send, chase, receive, avoid, dodge, attack, defend, movement into/out of space and to perform with control and accuracy. Each week the children will be able to participate in a small sided game to experience different positions and tactics, creating balanced and rounded sportspersons.

Due to current circumstances, we will try to be outside for PE as much as possible so please ensure that your child has jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt which are essential for outdoor sessions. If the weather is too bad, we will use the classroom for an indoor session. Please note that all PE kit must conform to the uniform policy. Furthermore, earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back. Finally, as always, please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform are clearly named and in a small bag that does up to avoid the kit falling out of the carrier bag or rucksack on to the floor. Ideally a drawstring bag is best.

## Homework

For homework this term we will be using Showbie to set Maths and Reading tasks to benefit the children from having not been in school for so long. Homework will be set on a Thursday to be complete by the next Thursday giving everyone some week days and the weekend to complete the work. All homework will be marked and looked at together in class on a Thursday (if not completed then the child will have to stay to complete the task during their break time on the Thursday before going through it). The children will be given the 3 in 3 Pixl reading and a maths 'Flash back' questions to complete. We will cover spellings rules within our English lessons and I will set a spelling assignment on Spelling Shed for the children to complete. Our timetables are a big focus in Year 4 so the children need to be going on to TTRS each week where there will be a certificate for effort given out each week. There will be a folder for Maths and Reading where I will add any sheets or activities that would be good for practicing so that you can dip in and out of these. We also encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time at home. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

I will send a new code for you all to join Deer Class on Showbie via Class dojo. If your children hasn't got their Spelling shed or TTRS logins please let me know and I will send the details to you.

## Contact

Our contact in person is now restricted and Mrs Morris will be bringing the children in from the field entrance while I am inside for children arriving on the bus or earlier with siblings. Therefore, to keep in contact you can; send me a message on Class dojo which I check each day, on Showbie if linked to the homework or send an email to the office who can pass your message onto me. So, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Deer Class with less disruption compared to last year. Finally, a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your support, encouragement, patience, kindness and resilience through our Spring and Summer terms in Year 3... I am really proud to have had such an amazing class of talented children and wonderful parents who during a challenging time I feel I have grown much closer to. So now I am looking forward to us all conquering Year 4 together.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support. Stay safe, stay healthy and stay happy 😊

Miss Jolland