

Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a very Happy New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for my Christmas gifts, cards and good wishes, all of which were very much appreciated. Thank you! I am looking forward to beginning another term with Deer Class where we will continue to work together to keep everyone safe. We have another busy term planned, filled with all sorts of exciting and interesting new things for your child to learn and discover.



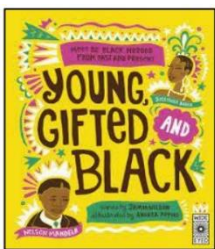
Autumn Review

The children worked very hard last term; there was a big jump coming back from Home learning in terms of work load and pace, expectations in behaviour for learning and settling into new routines, new teaching styles and a new classroom. I am very pleased with how they have risen to their new challenges and settled into being year 4. There were many excellent pieces of work produced and many memorable learning opportunities, in particular our torch making at the end of the term. The children thrived in applying their science learning into their DT lessons.

English

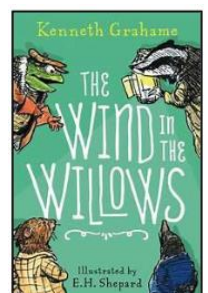
Reading continues to be a priority in class, the children are expected to read daily at home and in class. It is important that children choose a range of fiction and non-fiction texts that engage and challenge them. We will continue with our 'around the world' reading challenge where I have added three new books on the recommended reads page. Please encourage your child to choose one of these books to read so that they can have a named deer with their star rating proudly displayed on our class display. We will also be starting a whole school reading incentive (more details to follow at a later date) so I have added more recommend reads that are available from your local library for the children to enjoy reading for pleasure.

Last term, the children amazed me with their resilience during reading lessons learning high-quality vocabulary that they linked to other subjects within the curriculum. We had many great discussions around our core texts and the children were always disappointed when we had to stop on a certain chapter. This term we have got two more excellent books to read along with a range of challenging extracts that help the children to make connections with our core text. For the first half of the term, our book is 'Young, Gifted and Black' by Jamia Wilson and then 'The wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame in the second half term.



I am excited to read 'Young, Gifted and Black' with the children as we will be able to learn about and celebrate 52 black heroes from both the past and present. The book is a collection of stories about change-makers to encourage, inspire and empower children, young and old. Written in the spirit of Nina Simone's song, To Be Young, Gifted and Black, this vibrant book is a perfect introduction to figureheads, leaders and pioneers such as Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks, as well as cultural trailblazers and athletes like Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey and Serena Williams. I wonder which hero will inspire and empower the children to live out their dream... whatever it may be.

Whereas 'The Wind in the Willows' is a classic children's novel written by a British author, first published in 1908. The story focuses on four anthropomorphised animals – Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad—who live in a pastoral version of Edwardian England. I am sure the children will love reading about the adventure and misadventures of Toad along with Mole and Rat being part of several short stories included in the book. This novel is a celebration of enduring friendships, the comforts of home and the beauty of the English countryside.



In Writing, we will write poems which explore form, an explanatory text linked to our science learning, a critical analysis of a narrative poem, a persuasive advert and stories from other cultures linked to our Geography learning. To write each genre successfully we focus on the grammar needed within our daily writing sessions. For spellings, each week there will be 3 sessions where the rule will be taught, words will be applied in sentences and then reasoning and self-correction exercises will be completed. Use Spelling Shed to practice the rules and the Year 3 and 4 statutory words at home.

Websites for extra work at home

[Spelling Shed - Spelling Shed - The Science of Spelling](#)

[KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Spelling and Grammar, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks](#)

[Spelling - KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[spelling - Topmarks Search](#)

[Word lists, activities, tests and games \(spellzone.com\)](#)

Maths

As Mathematicians we will use our times table knowledge to learn and use written methods to multiply and divide 2-digit by 1-digit numbers as well as learning how to find the area of 2D shapes. In Spring 2 we will move onto fractions and decimal numbers.

Continue to use TTRS as you all rock! We have now learned our 6, 7 and 9's and will continue to learn them in class so keep practicing all your time tables at home as well to improve your recall of both multiplication and division facts.



Websites for extra work at home:

[KS2 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Most Popular Free Maths Games - Mathsframe](#)

[Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search](#)

Curriculum Subjects

In **Science**, we will be learning about Human Digestion, teeth and functions as well as Predators and Prey, food chains and food webs. These are the questions we will be beginning with:

Animals including Humans

1. What teeth do humans have? And what do they do?
2. How does our mouth and teeth help digestion? And what's the process?
3. Can teeth tell us what animals eat?
4. What are the parts of the digestive system? And What do they do?
5. How does the digestion work? And what is the process?

In Geography we will learn about latitude and longitude, identify world countries and understand the water cycle. These are the questions that our first study will focus on:

Latitude and Longitude

1. What are the lines of latitude and longitude?
2. How do lines of latitude and longitude tell us what the location is like?
4. How can you find exact locations around the world?
5. What are the time zones and how do they affect us?
6. How does day and night occur?

In **History** this term our topic is the Vikings, these are the main questions our study will focus on:

The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

1. *What was life like for Vikings?*
2. *When did the Vikings attack Britain?*
3. *Where did the Vikings invade and settle?*
4. *Why were the Vikings so feared and successful?*
5. *When were the Vikings most powerful?*
6. *What peace was agreed between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings?*
7. *What happened to the Vikings in England?*
8. *Why did the Normans and Vikings both think they had the right to the throne of England?*

Other subjects overview

In Art and Design, the children will begin with learning the skills of printmaking and textiles this half term and then develop skills of 3D art and collage. Children will respond to the traditional designs of Kente cloth. They will create a range of surfaces, combining colour, texture and pattern. They will explore the symbolic significance of colour.

In DT we will learn about textiles to answer the question; 'How do you keep a tea towel from slipping off a hook?' To answer the question the children will identify the different functions of fastenings and reflect on the advantages of using certain fasteners. Then in the second half of term we will be covering structures and answering the question; 'Which shapes will give a structure stability?'

In Computing, we will cover data handling to investigate the weather. The children will research and store data using spreadsheets, design a weather station that gathers and records data, learn how weather forecasts are made and use green screen technology to present the weather. In the second half of the term, we will focus on creating media through website design.

In Music, we will be using Charanga in which our first song is a rap style called 'Stop!' and our second song is a song that I enjoy, 'Lean on me' learning a soul/gospel style song.

In PSHE, we will use our Jigsaw Jazz to help learn about 'Celebrating difference' focusing on judging appearances, understanding influences, understanding bullying, what makes me unique and how we look.

In RE, the children will continue their study of Buddhism through learning about the 8-fold path and then Christianity focusing on Easter.

In French, we will be learning how to say the days of the week, the colours of the rainbow, numbers up to 20, the names of some countries and how to give opinions using 'I like...' and 'I don't like..'

PE

For this term, Deer class will have PE again on a Wednesday with Premier Sport. Due to having 3 lots of PE in the Autumn term this will be the only session this term. Children still come into school all day in their PE kit on a Wednesday, these sessions will be outside where possible so ensure the children have suitable PE kit for being outside. Have layers that can be added when outside and removed for being in the classroom. It would also be good for the children to also have a pair of gloves because if they are outside their hands can get very cold.

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

The children are expected to read on daily, use TTRS to continue to improve their recall of all the time-tables and go on Spelling Shed to practice spelling rules learnt in class.

Playtimes

Where possible we will continue to have all playtimes on the field. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school to change into every playtime to help protect the carpets and keep the school clean. Children also need a coat for wet weather and can have waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes for playtimes to avoid getting their uniform dirty.

Final note

Once again it is unclear to how this term will pan out with Covid continuing but you can still catch me at the end of the day at the library door or I am just at the end of a message on Class dojo. If you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you in anticipation for all your support, take care and stay healthy. Together we will conquer this term if we try our best and show kindness.

Miss Jolland 😊