

YEARS 3 AND 4 SPRING TERM CYCLE 1 CURRICULUM STATEMENT



ENGLISH

We will be studying the National Curriculum in speaking and listening, reading and writing. The children have individual targets in order to progress. You will receive a written copy and review of these in your child's termly report. In Guided Reading we will be learning how to make inferences about a character based on their actions, words and feelings. We will be developing these skills through reading a range of stories and identifying clues about characters from within the text. Writing lessons will focus on developing a range of sentence types and descriptive devices, as well as continuing to increase recall and use of higher level vocabulary. This will culminate in our annual Swinemoor Stories entries.

The development of oracy and verbal reasoning will remain a focus across the curriculum. The children will be giving verbal reports, recalling their knowledge and skills, and discussing their opinions. The children will continue to work on the development of fluent, cursive-style handwriting. Examples of a wide range of stories can be found on the Internet as well as in the story books you have at home. The BBC Bitesize resources are an example of this. Asking questions about characters and having discussions about how we might feel if we were in the story will help the development of inference skills.

MATHS

We will be studying the National Curriculum using the Maths No Problem programme. The children have individual targets in order to progress. You will receive a written copy and review of these in your child's termly report. The children will continue to develop their number, measurement and statistics skills through group work, discussion and practical tasks. This term our number work will focus on multiplication and division. This work will form the basis of all further mathematics work and will be revised regularly. We will also be beginning our work on fractions, time and measurement.

Multiplication facts continue to be a priority in Year 3/4; these are practised in daily lessons. Further help and support can be found on the Internet in the form of games, songs and quizzes. TTRockstars is a useful online resource, as is the Topmarks website which includes a number of fun, interactive games. Alternatively, more traditional rote learning and chanting have proved to be very effective ways of learning these facts.

SCIENCE

We will be studying the National Curriculum. The main topics will be States of Matter, and Rocks. The children will be learning about solids, liquids and gases which follows on from the Water Cycle work completed last term. We will be looking at the characteristics of each state and classifying things accordingly. After half term, we will begin our Rocks topic. We will investigate different uses for rocks – both manmade and natural – and how different rocks and fossils are formed. This links with our geography topic. The BBC Bitesize and BBC Teach websites have lots of interesting activities and interactive learning in these areas.

We will use our Computing skills to monitor our science investigations and create creative films to demonstrate our knowledge and understanding. We will continue to reinforce e-safety messages and learn how to behave appropriately on the Internet.

THE ARTS

In Art we will be studying and creating paintings of flora and fauna in The Great Outdoors. The children will be developing their use of colour mixing and paint application techniques. These skills will be demonstrated in painted studies of aspects of the school outdoor environment such as the meadows and trees. If you would like to help your child as they develop these skills, YouTube is a good source of online tutorials. In DT we will be learning about human nutrition. This will be taught through our science curriculum and demonstrated through our annual Masterchef competition.

In Music we will be continuing to listen to and sing a range of pieces from classical, folk, ancient hymn and nursery rhyme traditions. This will be expanded to include Songs from the Shows as we rehearse for our annual vocal showcase. The children will be learning about Italian terms for musical ideas and developing their music appreciation and performance skills. Both the BBC Bitesize and BBC Teach websites can offer extra support in this area. YouTube will help you practise the songs we have been learning at school and encourage you to listen to other similar pieces of music.

THE HUMANITIES

Our History topic this term is The Achievements of Early Civilisations. We will look at the seven ancient wonders of the world and think about how civilisations developed in different parts of the world. The BBC Bitesize website has a range of interesting activities that reinforce the learning done in school. The children may enjoy developing their research further by watching YouTube documentaries, carrying out Internet research or doing a mini project about a particular structure or civilisation.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This term we will be further developing our skills and tactics for attacking and defending. This will be done through striking and fielding team games. We will be applying the skills across a range of sports and games both indoors and outdoors. The BBC Teach website has a number of tutorials and resources in this area. It would also be beneficial to watch team games such as cricket or baseball to understand how the tactics and skills go together.

RE/ PSHE

In RE we will be learning about different faith founders and exploring what it means to have a faith. This will include discussions about different ways of life, customs and traditions. The BBC Bitesize website is a good general resource that encourages thinking about all areas of our RE syllabus. In PSHE we will continue to follow the Jigsaw programme as we think about 'Dreams and Goals' including how we take the first steps towards achieving our goals.

TERMLY COMPETITIONS

Our competition in DT is Masterchef. Our annual talent competition 'Swinemoor's Got Talent' will take place. Our English competition is Swinemoor Stories. This is judged by independent, external judges. All stories will be included in the latest volume of Swinemoor Stories. Each week we find a mathematics competition winner and a times tables champion will be announced at the end of the term. Alongside these, our DoJo system is reward based and points can be awarded for excellence in any area of school life. This includes - but is not restricted to - academic studies, determination to succeed and making super progress.