

WALPOLE CROSS KEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Year 3 and 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome back, I hope you have had an enjoyable Easter break and enjoyed the lovely weather. We are now in our final term and have a lot of exciting learning ahead.

Our Themes

Our first theme is 'From Source to Sea'. Within this unit we will become intrepid explorers, with the task of discovering secrets about rivers - Where do they come from? Where do they go? How do they manage to continue flowing? Why do they flood? Why are rivers so important to humans and plants alike? We will explore vastly different landscapes, ranging from the highest mountains right down to the sea.

After half term, our theme will be 'What did the Romans do for us?'. This fascinating unit introduces the children to the mighty Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. They will learn how Rome grew from a small city-state into a huge empire which stretched from Africa in the south to Scotland in the north. They will learn about the powerful Roman army and the role it played in conquering the tribes of Gaul, Britain and Germany. They will also learn about the way of life that the Romans brought to Britain and the impact that it had on the British people. They learn about many different aspects of Roman life, some of which were cultured and sophisticated and others which were the brutal opposite!

English

There will be many different writing opportunities during this term. Including writing a shape poem and a play based on our text 'Oliver and the Seawigs'. The children will be using what they learn about the water cycle within our theme to write an explanation text. In the second half term the children will be writing a traditional tale from a key characters perspective. They will also be writing a biography and myths and legends. Within reading we will be developing our comprehension skills. We will continue developing our spellings and grammar and implementing this learning within our writing.

Maths

We will be covering many areas in maths this term. We are learning about money, shape, statistics, time and measure. As well as continuing to develop our mental arithmetic skills.

Science

In the first half term, we are going to learn about the 'How does your garden grow?'. The children will learn about the absorption and transport of water and nutrients and the role of the leaf in making food for the plant (knowledge of the process of photosynthesis is not required at this stage). They will also learn about the parts of the flower, their roles in plant reproduction and the stages of the life cycle of a flowering plant. When working scientifically children will ask and answer their own questions about plants through classifying, observing over time, conducting fair test investigations and using secondary sources. They will have opportunities to make and record detailed observations using labelled and annotated diagrams.

In the second half term our science theme will be 'Amazing Bodies?'. The children will revisit the importance of eating the right amounts of different types of food, but will extend this knowledge to understand that the food we eat provides us with the nutrition that our bodies require to remain healthy. They will learn about the range of nutrients that humans need to consume in the correct amounts and the role that these nutrients play in keeping our bodies healthy. They will also learn that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. When working scientifically children will ask and answer their own questions about the human body and diet through classifying, pattern-seeking investigations and by carrying out research using secondary sources. They will have opportunities to gather data and record and present these in a range of ways.

Home Learning

Home Learning activities shall be set at the beginning of each half term. The children will be given a choice of six activities to choose from. Their completed work will be shared with the class and celebrated at the end every half term. In addition, spellings, reading activities and maths homework will also be sent home on a weekly basis. They need to be practicing the times tables daily.



Reading Books



We should have our reading books and records in school every day and should read at home as often as we can. Children should be reading with an adult where possible so that the adults can ask them questions about what they have read to check their understanding.

PE

We should have our PE kits in school every day. Children will need black or blue shorts, a pale blue polo shirt, a tracksuit (for those colder outdoor sessions) and trainers.

PE will continue with Sam Loomes on a Wednesday afternoon. Sam uses the curriculum to create a fun program that challenges different skills and abilities.

This half term, the children will continue working with Sam Loomes every **Wednesday afternoon** who works within the curriculum to ensure each individual is being challenged to their ability. These PE lessons are designed to work core skills (for example, throwing and catching/hand eye co-ordination)



and consist of a warm up which will progress into an activity where a specific skill will be put into practice in a game situation at the end. Sam strives to make every lesson fun and enjoyable to make sure the children are putting full effort into it to maximise their performance and development.

During the second half term, they will be going swimming and more details will be sent out nearer the time.

We thank you for your support with your child's learning. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss Saward