



# Combe Martin Primary School

## Jellyfish Class Newsletter Spring 2023

I hope you and your family all had a wonderful festive break. I am very excited to start the new term with the children and we have lots of exciting learning to look forward to this term!

### Topic

Our topic this term is Down Under! This has a geography focus and the children will learn to understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a contrasting non-European country. They will also use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features and use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language. They will learn about the different cultures and lifestyles, the different states and territories as well as the climate and all the unusual animals you can find living there! Look out for talk of spiders, sharks and crocs!



### English

We will start this term finishing off our pirate adventure story writing (as due to the play rehearsals, this didn't get completed.) The children will be learning the story and then trying to write similar stories of their own based on the structure. We will be having a real push on presentation and handwriting and so if you can support your child with this at home that would be great. If your child is in Year 2 encourage them to use joined writing and all children should be encouraged to always start a sentence with a capital letter! We will then move onto non chronological report writing either later in this half term or next half term.



### Maths

Year 1 and Year 2 will start with a different focus this half term. Year 1 will begin with a quick unit on shape, moving onto place value within 20 and later to 50. They will also look at addition and subtraction as well as length and height and time permitting we will also look at mass and volume. Year 2 will begin by looking at money (a really good one to consolidate at home!) Then they move onto multiplication and division and then as with Year 1 they will do length and height. Year 2's need to be confident with their 2x, 5x and 10x tables by the end of Year 2 so any help you can give them to learn these tables by heart would be much appreciated. The school has also now got a subscription for Times Table Rock stars (all Year 2 children will get a log in, Year 1's there is no learning of times tables during this school year) so once you get the log in please encourage your child to use it little and often to get quicker with their instant recall. White Rose Maths (the scheme of Maths we use in school) also has an excellent app which all children in Jellyfish can use, it will help children with the mental maths skills and rapid recall of number facts they need to succeed with their maths learning. The link is <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/1-minute-maths>

### P.E.

PE will continue to be taught by our specialist PE teacher on Mondays. As much as possible, PE will remain outside and so the children need to ensure they are wearing the correct warm PE kit. This needs to be a T-Shirt, a dark blue or black jumper/hoodie for outdoors (this can be their school uniform jumper) and dark blue or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. Training shoes to suit the activity undertaken and the children should continue to come in kit on Mondays. Year 2's will continue to swim on Friday afternoons and Year 1's will be having an extra P.E session with Starfish class – so could they please come into their PE kits on Fridays too please.



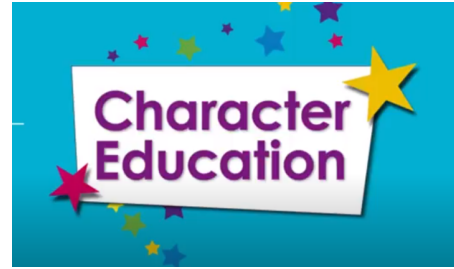
### Reading

Reading is an essential life skill that underpins all of our work at school. It is a school expectation that all children read at home daily with parents. The children will continue to either receive Love Reading homework or phonics linked home learning depending on what they are currently focussing on. Please help to make sure your child completes this home learning. We are also lucky to continue to have Mrs Whately supporting us again this term. Please continue to record all reading in their Love reading books – this doesn't have to be a lot, just a note of the dates and what was read would be great! Also encourage your child to record their reading loves there too! I will continue to do Guided Reading in school, in which I work with the children in small groups and discuss the text whilst the other children practise key reading skills, which we then discuss at the end of the session. If your child is currently doing phonics this links to the phonetically decodable book. As you are reading with your child it is really good to ask questions about their understanding, get them to predict what they think may happen next, discuss characters – what they like/dislike about them etc. as this all helps them to understand the text more fully.



## Character Education

Character Education remains a key part of our teaching at Combe Martin School – it underpins everything we do and hopefully the children can see links to character through many subjects. Added to this Mrs Seddon will also be delivering assemblies weekly linked to our virtues and we will be exploring themes within class too. The children will continue to be recognised for demonstrating our character virtues through our celebration assembly and hot chocolate Friday nominations.



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### Morning routine

In Term 1, the children were fantastically independent and they understood the routines well. There is always a morning task set for your child. Please try to get them to school at the correct time as some children are consistently missing this learning opportunity. Often the task is an opportunity to practise or consolidate prior learning as well as helping to settle your child to start the day in a positive way.

### Outdoor Learning

Jellyfish class are going to do outdoor learning this half term with our new teacher Mrs Morrow. She will be linking this outdoor learning to the children's Science curriculum and I'm sure it will be very exciting and engaging for all the children. I will let you know if your child needs to come with welly boots etc. nearer the sessions.



If you have any questions or would like to find out more about our work this term, please do come and see me, contact me via Class Dojo or through email:

[a.lewis@alumnismat.org](mailto:a.lewis@alumnismat.org)

Here's to an enjoyable, fun filled and exciting Spring Term!

Amy Lewis

