



# Combe Martin School

## Welcome to Puffins Class!

### Spring Term 2023



Hello and happy new year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are ready for the new school term.

#### Communication



Please continue to contact us using Class Dojo, this remains the quickest way to get a message to us. We will also post pictures and updates regularly on Dojo as well as on the school Twitter account to keep you up to date with what your child is enjoying.

This term we will send Maths and English books home regularly, this is a great opportunity for you to have a conversation with your child about their learning!

We will continue to use Google Classroom in school and to post home learning, the children are really developing in their use of their chromebooks to improve their learning.



Google Classroom

#### Timetable

We have made some changes to our timetable this term and the children will have a number of specialist teachers in the afternoon to enable Mrs Railston to work with groups.

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Mrs Railston	Miss Sloman (PE)/Mrs Seddon (Computing)
Tuesday	Mrs Railston	Mrs Mortelock (Music/RE)
Wednesday	Mrs Railston	Mrs Morrow (Science/Outdoor Learning)
Thursday	Mrs Railston	Mrs Railston
Friday	Mrs Railston	Swimming

#### Topic

Our topic for the Spring term is Rivers and Mountains. This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of both rivers and mountains, including a focus on locations of rivers and mountains both in the UK and in France. As a school we have chosen France as our European study for our Geography curriculum as it links in with Combe Martin's links to Cormelles-le-Royal. Through this project we will also be looking at the impact of climate change.

We will be looking to answer the questions:

- How are rivers and mountains formed?
- Where does water come from?
- Why are rivers important?
- What effect does water pollution have on the environment?
- Why do mountains have their own climate?
- How can tourism benefit/harm a mountain environment?

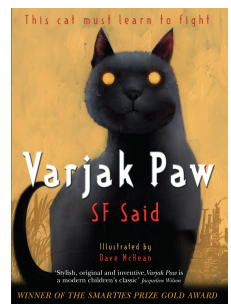
We will share a knowledge organiser with the children which will give an overview of the topic. We will also be creating a home learning grid with many different opportunities for extra learning - keep your eyes on Google Classroom!

#### English

We will be starting our Spring Term with a poetry unit entitled 'Peace' and we will be entering the poems into The Rotary Club Young Writers annual competition - there will be a consent form needed to be filled in which we will provide in due course. We will then be moving onto a narrative unit which will link to our whole class reading book which we began reading at the end of last term - 'Varjak Paw' by S F Said.

'Varjak Paw' is one of our Reading Spine books, the reading spine is a core list of books which have been identified for each year group and are read to the children by the class teacher. If the children would like to bring in their own copies to follow along as we are reading that is fine, please make sure that if they do bring in their own books that they are named.

We will also have a focus on vocabulary choices - using Vocabulary Ninja to learn and use new and exciting words, please encourage your child to look for new vocabulary in their reading.



#### Maths



This term we will be splitting KS2 into their year groups for maths. The Year 5 children will be taught by Mr Guyler and Mrs Seddon and the all Year 4 children from Puffins and Dolphins will be taught by myself. The children will be working on a range of mathematics this term, including multiplication and division and fractions. We will continue to use a range of equipment to support our learning as well as visual representations.

By the end of Year 4 children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12x12. Please help the children practise these at home, both in order and out of order including multiplications and divisions. We will be continuing to practise and learn our times tables and the chromebooks are an ideal way for the children to practise their tables at home. We have given all the children a log in for Times Tables Rock Stars.

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

### **Multiplication Check**

In June this year all Year 4 children in the country are required to take a Multiplication Check. This will take the form of an online check to determine whether year 4 pupils can fluently recall their multiplication tables. The check will assess whether the children can **quickly** recall times table facts – in the check the children have approximately 7 seconds to answer each question. Please help your child practise their times tables facts!

### **P.E.**

PE will continue to be on Mondays with Miss Sloman. Please send the children into school on Mondays dressed in their PE kits so they will not be changing in school, PE kits should include: a thin wind proof coat, well fitting trainers, black or navy shorts or tracksuit trousers, a white T-shirt and a **school** jumper. As the weather can be cold please add a black or dark coloured hat and a pair of gloves! Please make sure that your child's name is in all of their kit and also send children with a spare set of clothes on PE days in case clothes get wet or muddy.

This term Puffins will be swimming on Friday afternoons, a letter has been shared on Class Dojo about this.

### **Character Education and Super Learners**

Character is who you are. It is what makes you...you. It is what you believe in and how you respond to situations and how you act. Our work on developing character links really well with the Super Learner approach which we use in school. Each term we will learn about different character virtues, some of the virtues which the children may have talked about previously were: compassion, reflection, cooperation, resilience.

In school we are working on building our work on character into our daily learning opportunities, for example, towards the end of our World War Two topic we discussed which character virtues would have been most important during World War Two and why. We also discuss which character virtues can help us with our learning, last term the children talked about using creativity and reflection when writing letters in role as evacuees.

We look to see children demonstrating character virtues, children who are 'caught' demonstrating a virtue will be recognised with a 'Shout Out' on our shout out board in the classroom. You can support our work on character with the children by helping them to talk and think about how they feel, as well as how they act in relation to moral situations and emotions. The children inevitably will face obstacles but it is about how they overcome these and how they use the Super Learner skills – resilience, reciprocity, reflectiveness and resourcefulness - to aid their own learning journey.

### **Reading**

We will continue to support the children's reading through explicit skills being taught in reading sessions - these include vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising. You can support your child by asking them questions about their reading books at home and try to get them to use evidence from the text to support their thinking.

All children need to be reading regularly and be given the opportunity to discuss their reading.

Sharing books and enjoying a story together is lovely for all readers. We will also continue to share stories and poems in class. Don't forget that each week the children will have a Reading Task which we will post on Google Classroom to complete at home which will be linked to the work which we have done during their Guided Reading sessions. These Reading Tasks can either be completed in their blue Love Reading books or in Google Classroom.

### **General Information**

We encourage the children to be independent and it is their responsibility to bring their Love Reading book and reading books in on a **daily** basis. If your child has a black or blue pen which they like to write with, they can bring their own pen in to use in school. Please do not send any other equipment into school. They also need their chromebook and please help them to remember to charge them before they come to school!

### **Morning Snack**

Please remember the children need to bring a piece of fruit as their snack for breaktime.

### **End of the Day**

We will continue to walk the children out of school to the front gates at the end of the day. If you have a child in Key Stage 1 please collect them first and we will stay with your children at the main gates until you come around to collect them. If you want your child to walk home on their own, please ensure that you let me know, we cannot let any children leave school by themselves if we do not have parental permission.

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: [j.railston@alumnismat.org](mailto:j.railston@alumnismat.org)

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



*Jo Railston*