



Combe Martin School



Puffins Newsletter Summer Term 2023

Welcome back to school and I hope you all had a great Easter break and didn't eat too much chocolate! I have been so impressed with the progress the children are making this year and I am positive this will continue into this term. This term we welcome back Miss Fitzgerald to Puffins class for her final placement of her teacher training. We have some fantastic activities and projects planned this term that I am sure the children are going to enjoy!

Character Education and Super Learners

We will be continuing to learn how to develop our character, thinking about how to become inspiring change makers. We will be exploring different character virtues throughout the term. We have weekly assemblies on Mondays linked to our virtues and we will be exploring themes within class too. On Thursdays we have our Celebration Assemblies where we celebrate those children who have been caught using character virtues during the week!

Topic

This term our topic is a history topic and we will be focusing on the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians. We will begin the topic with an overview of where and when the earliest civilisations began and then we will begin an in depth study of the Ancient Egyptians.



Help your child prepare for their project

Talk about what they already know about Ancient Egypt, perhaps they have read a Horrible History books or magazines? We will share a knowledge organiser with you and the children which will give an overview of the topic. We will also be sending home a Home Learning Grid with a choice of activities for the children to work on.

English

We will be covering a range of text types in our English work, including Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction, some of this will be linked to our topic. We will continue to learn model texts and hope that the children can share their learning with you at home by showing you the texts we learn with actions. This approach to the teaching of writing is one which we use throughout the school and its main objective is that when the children learn texts they are more able to use and adapt the language of the learnt text in their own writing. We have been really pleased with the results of this approach, we can see the impact it is having on the children's writing.

Our class novel this term is 'Brightstorm' by Vashti Hardy, we will be discussing this in some of our reading lessons and we will be working on a narrative unit which is linked to the book. We will also look at non-fiction writing, learning how to write discussions.

In class we have a daily reading lesson, this is either based on our class novel or on extracts from other texts, fiction, poetry and non-fiction. We have also been using an online programme called Accelerated Reader, in school we ask the children to log in to Accelerated Reader to do a reading quiz whenever they have finished a reading book.



Maths



The children will be working on a range of mathematics this term. We will continue to revisit the maths learning which we have already covered during the Autumn and Spring Terms on Place Value, Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication and Division. One way in which we give the children practise of these skills is in our Morning Activities before registration so it is really important that the children try their best at these activities.

You can continue to support your child by practising maths at home, using numbers in many situations, for example, telling the time, counting, money and learning times tables.

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 –the children have 7 seconds to answer each question. Please help your child practise their times tables facts, the **Sound Check** part of Times Tables Rockstars is set up to be like the check so it is good for the children to regularly do a Sound Check.

P.E.

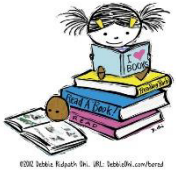
We will continue to have our PE sessions on Mondays and this term the children will have an additional PE lesson on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure that the children wear their PE kits to school on Mondays and Thursdays.

The children's PE kit should include: appropriate trainers, black shorts/jogging bottoms, white T-shirt, sweatshirts and a clean pair of socks. A thin windproof coat is also useful as even though it is the Summer we cannot rely on good weather! Please make sure that your child's name is in all their kit.



Reading

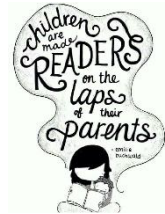
Turn it off and
READ A BOOK



As you know, at Combe Martin we place a huge value on the importance of reading and we thank you for your support with this. Reading is an essential life skill which underpins all our work at school. It is a school expectation that all children read at home **daily** with parents and make a note of it in the Blue Love Reading books. It is worth remembering that this reading can take many forms – for example, looking at a magazine or newspaper together, finding something out on the internet and of course sharing and talking about a good book! Please encourage your children to use the Love Reading books for more than just writing in what pages of a book they have read, we want to see them using them to show their enjoyment of reading and their wide range of reading outside school. For example, they can record their thoughts about what they are reading or draw a picture in response to it, stick in an interesting magazine article, writing a list of everything they have read during a day/week etc. Please encourage the children to continue using these books to show their enjoyment of reading and their wide range of reading outside school!

Even when children are already fluent readers we can still help them to develop their reading skills. The best way is to continue to share books with your child, regularly listening to them read, sometimes reading to or with them, but also discussing books read in increasing depth. Most importantly, we want all the children to develop a 'love for reading', we will be sharing a range of texts with them in class and hope they will also widen their reading choices out of school and share them with us!

Each week the children have a Reading Task to complete at home which will be linked to the work which we have done during their Guided Reading sessions – please remember to check in the Love Reading books for these tasks and support your child in completing them, we will also continue to post these tasks in Google Classroom. These Reading Tasks should be completed in the blue Love Reading books or on Google Classroom. We check the Love Reading books on a weekly basis.



Home Learning

Look out for this term's Home Learning grid, linked to our topics – we are looking forward to seeing the children's creativity in these tasks!

Please also encourage the children to read regularly at home and to practise their times tables.



General Information

We encourage the children to be independent and it is their responsibility to bring their Love Reading Books and reading books in on a daily basis. Please also help the children to remember their chrome books each day and to ensure that they are fully charged. Each morning there will be a registration activity ready for children to work on when they come into the classroom, please remind them to have a go at their morning task when you drop them off at school!

Weather



As it is the Summer term and we hope for some lovely weather please remember to send children to school with hats and please apply all day sun cream before school. In warm weather it is even more important than usual to keep hydrated so please send children to school with a **water bottle** which they may keep in the classroom, ideally the water bottles should be plastic and have a 'push down pull up top' (in case of spills). The weather can be changeable so we do ask that children continue to bring coats into school in case of rain!

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

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

