



Combe Martin School

Welcome to Dolphin Class - Year 3 and 4 Autumn Term 2023

Hello and welcome back to school. We hope you all had a great Summer break and are ready for the new school year. We are very excited to work with you and your children this year and having parental support and open lines of communication is an essential part of a successful school year. Thank you for all you do for your child and our school, we are very grateful that you trust us to teach and care for your child each day.

Who are we?



We are Mrs Jo Railston and Mrs Jessica Morris! Mrs Morris will be working in school three days a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Railston will be in school all week. We will be having a welcome meeting on Tuesday 12th September at 2.50pm for any parents or carers who would like to come and see the classroom, ask any questions and find out more about our learning this year.



Communication



We will be continuing to use Class Dojo to keep you up to date with what we are doing in class. Using Dojo is a really useful tool which means we can easily communicate with you: we can instantly share messages, updates and photographs from class. It's a great way for you to see what your child is doing in school and to get in touch with us. You should all have been already added to our new classes, if you are not on Dojo yet please let us know and we will get a code to you. We will also be using Google Classroom for learning activities, both in school and at home. This term the Year 3

children will be given their Chrome Books. Please let us know if you need any support in accessing Google Classroom.



Google Classroom

Topic

Our topic for the Autumn term is Through the Ages. Through this project we will teach the children about British prehistory from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, including changes to people and lifestyle caused by ingenuity, invention and technological advancement! We will share a knowledge organiser with the children which will give an overview of the topic, we will also be sharing a home learning grid of interesting activities for the children to do at home.



English

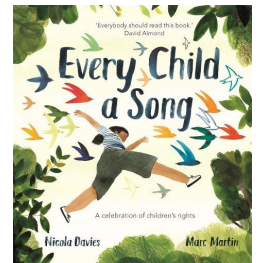
Children will be covering a range of text types in their English work, including Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction, some of this will be linked to our topic. Our first text which we will look at is 'Every Child a Song' written by Nicola Davies for the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We will then move onto looking at a story called 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon' using our Talk for Writing

approach. This begins with the children learning a story using actions and text mapping. We will use this story to help us write our own stories, using paragraphs, effective description and adding suspense! During the second half of term we will look at non-fiction texts, learning to write information texts, again continuing to use Talk for Writing to develop as readers and writers ourselves.



Talk for Writing



In Key Stage Two we use Decision Spelling to develop the children's spelling skills. This approach helps children to make better choices when spelling through teaching them about spelling rules and patterns.

As well as reading their independent reading books that they bring home, children will be participating in regular group reading sessions lead by a teacher. Our whole class readers are very important to our school and during the transition day the children voted for the book which they would like to start the year with and they chose 'Bad Nana' by Sophy Henn. Once we have read this we will move on to reading 'The Wild Way Home' by Sophie Kirtley, a fantastic story which is set in the Stone Age! If you wish to buy a copy for your child they can bring it into school so they can follow along as we read.

Maths

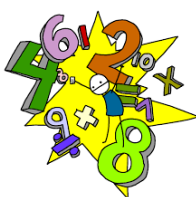
The children will be working on a range of mathematics this term. We will begin by working on Place Value which includes recognising numbers, counting, understanding the value of numbers and placing numbers in order. We will then move onto working on addition and subtraction then multiplication and division. 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.

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 ensure that all the children are set up to use Times Tables Rockstars and there are plenty of times table games and activities on the internet too!

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>



Multiplication Check

In June next 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 they have 7 seconds to answer each question.

P.E.

For the first half term P.E will take place on Thursday afternoons. Please send the children into school on Thursdays 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. The children will be taking part in a range of PE activities this term. As the weather starts to get colder 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. Please send children with a spare set of clothes on PE days in case clothes get wet or muddy.



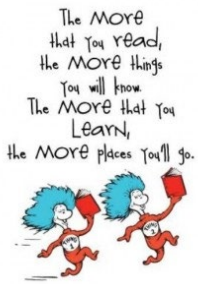
Character Education

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. We look to see children demonstrating character virtues and children who are 'caught' demonstrating a virtue will be recognised with a 'Shout Out' on our Proud Board in the classrooms. 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.

Coming back into school may be a little daunting for some of the children but their mindset could help with this greatly. A lot of how you address your children at home around school can have an effect on how they are feeling too so although you may also be feeling a little anxious, try to frame being back in school as a big positive and hopefully your child will come into school feeling excited for the new challenges. The children inevitably will face obstacles but it is about how they overcome these and how they use the character virtues to aid their own learning journey.

Reading

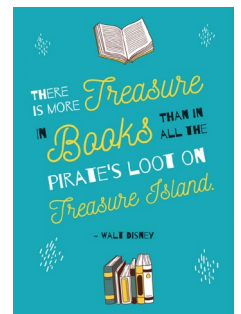
Reading is an essential life skill which underpins all of our work at school. It is a school expectation that all children read at home daily with parents and make a note of it in the Blue Love Reading books. Please encourage the children to continue using these books to show their enjoyment of reading 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 will have a Reading Task in their Love Reading book to complete at home which will be linked to the work which we have done during their Guided Reading sessions.



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. Each morning there will be a registration activity ready for children to work on when they come into the classroom.



Morning Snack

Now that the children are all in Key Stage 2, they can bring in a piece of fruit to eat at morning breaktime as they are no longer entitled to the free fruit which is offered in Reception and Key Stage One. We do encourage you to send some fruit for them to eat as the morning is quite long for them without a snack!

End of the Day

We will walk the children out of school to the front gates at the end of the day. If you have a child in Class 1 or 2 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 their class teacher 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 us, contact us via Class Dojo or through email:

j.railston@alumnismat.org

j.morris@alumnismat.org

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