



# Combe Martin School



## Dolphins Newsletter: Summer Term 2024

Welcome back to school and we hope you all had a great Easter break.

### 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 certainly became inspiring adventurers last term with our residential to the Pinkery! We will be exploring different character virtues throughout the term. We will 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!

### Timetable

There have been a couple of changes to our timetable this term, the children will be having Mrs Mortlock for music on Tuesday afternoons and PE is now on a Thursday morning instead of Thursday afternoon.

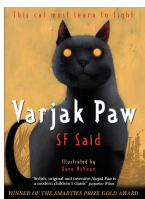
	Morning (English, Maths, Spelling, Reading)	Afternoon
Monday	Mrs Railston (English, Maths, Spelling, Reading)	Mrs Morris (Art/DT)
Tuesday	Mrs Morris (English, Maths, PSHE, Reading)	Mrs Mortlock (Music)
Wednesday	Mrs Morris (Science, Maths, Spelling, Reading)	Mrs Railston (Computing/RE)
Thursday	Mrs Railston (English, PE, Spelling, Reading)	Mrs Railston (History and Spanish)
Friday	Mrs Railston (English, Maths, Spelling, Reading)	Fantastic Fridays

### History and Geography

For the first half term our topic is a history topic and we will be focusing on learning more about 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.



After half term we will start a geography topic learning about latitude and longitude, we will find out what the lines of latitude and longitude are and how they help us locate places more accurately, this will also link to our learning on climate zones from the Autumn term.



### English

We will begin the term with a one week unit looking at different forms of poetry, the children will write their own haikus and cinquains and they will practise performing some poetry. We will then work on units based on explanatory texts, first person diary entries, stories from other cultures and newspaper reports. In our reading lessons we will be reading the fantastic book 'Varjak Paw' in the first half term and 'The Wind in the Willows' in the second half term.

In class we have a daily reading lesson, this is either based on our class novel or on extracts from other linked texts, fiction, poetry and non-fiction. We also use 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.

## Science

In Science this half term our unit of learning is called 'Our Amazing Bodies'. We will be looking at why some animals and humans have muscles and a skeleton for support, protection and movement and then moving on to look in depth at how we digest our food, learning about the organs of the digestive system and their function. We will study the different types of teeth that humans have and learn about how we can keep our teeth healthy.

## P.E.

We will continue to have our PE sessions on Thursdays, please ensure that the children wear their PE kits to school on Thursdays. This term the children will be working on their cricket and athletics skills. The children's PE kit should include: appropriate trainers, black shorts/jogging bottoms, white T-shirt and school jumper. 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**

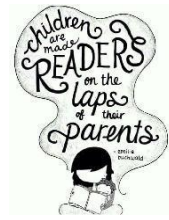


As you know, at Combe Martin we place a huge value on the importance of reading and we thank you for your support with this. Reading is an essential life skill which underpins all our work at school. It is a school expectation that all children read at home **daily** with parents and make a note of it 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 Reading lessons – please remember to check in the Love Reading books for these tasks and support your child in completing them, these Reading Tasks should be completed in the blue Love Reading books. We check the Love Reading books on a weekly basis.



## Home Learning

Look out for this term's Home Learning grid, linked to our Ancient Egypt topic – 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.

**COMING SOON**

## 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!

### Uniform:

Thank you to everybody that has supported us in ensuring all children are wearing the correct School Uniform. We understand how difficult this can be at times - shoes break, jumpers are lost and I am sure some children ask to wear their favourite trainers or jumpers. They may say that their teachers don't mind or that all their friends do but this isn't the case and the majority of children come to school in the correct uniform every day.

Please can we ask that you ensure your child has the correct uniform. Here is a reminder.

- Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with our school logo with school hoodies being an option on PE days - No other jumpers or hoodies to be worn.
- White polo T-shirt with a collar.
- Plain black or dark grey trousers, shorts, skirts or dresses - tracksuit bottoms are allowed on PE days only and these must be black or grey.
- Plain black, white or grey tights and socks.
- Plain black sensible shoes or trainers that your child can run comfortably in (closed toes, no heels). No coloured brand marks. Other trainers can be worn on PE days only.
- Blue gingham summer dresses.
- A waterproof coat should be brought to school every day along with suncream and a sun hat during the summer term.

If your child comes to school without the correct uniform your child's teacher will give you a reminder and we will provide the correct uniform if we have spares in the right size.

You can purchase uniform at <https://schoolthreads.org/collections/combe-martin-primary>



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 us, contact us via Class Dojo or through email:

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

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

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

*Jo Railston and Jess Morris*

