

Drifffield Junior School



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Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum Newsletter

Please find below information from each year group.

Year 3

The autumn term marks the beginning of a new chapter for our Year 3 children. As well as becoming familiar with daily routines, work for the first half term will focus on Healthy Eating. Our first theme of the year will see us learning about animals (including humans) and how nutrition plays such a key role in the healthy development of animals. Work in English will look at stories with familiar settings followed by instructional writing. Mathematics will mainly focus on numbers and the number system as well as basic calculations. In PE, the children will be taught the skills necessary to play football and perform gymnastic/dance skills using a variety of movement patterns. PE and games occur on the following days for each class:

- 3A: Wednesday and Thursday
- 3H: Monday and Thursday
- 3S: Wednesday and Thursday
- 3W: Tuesday and Wednesday

Please ensure your child has a fully named PE kit in school every day as lessons may be rescheduled. Shorts and T-shirts are required for indoor PE and trainers; tracksuit bottoms and jumpers are needed for outdoor games once the weather starts to deteriorate.

We are extremely proud of how the Year 3s have settled into life at the Junior School during this first week. We hope to send reading books home from Friday 14th September (once your child's fingerprint has been put onto the school's library system) and expect children to read to an adult at least three times per week. Maths homework will be set on 'Mathletics' (online maths programme) every Friday (from 21st September) and should be completed by the following Friday. Should you not have access to a computer/tablet or internet at home, there will be opportunities for your child to attend a Mathletics club at lunchtime during the week. Wherever possible, maths homework will aim to build upon your child's learning in maths lessons that week.

Your child has now received their Drifffield Junior School planner. This is the third year that we have used this format and we are excited about the strong links that the planner promotes between home and school. In this planner, you will be able to record when your child has read and also any comments that you may wish to write for your child's class teacher. The planner also contains an abundance of useful information about key curriculum areas that your child should aim to know by the end of the year so please encourage them to share the planner with you so that you can become familiar with the content and also the national age-related expectations for a Year 3 child.



If you have any questions, do not hesitate in asking your child's class teacher or myself. We are all very excited about working with your child and look forward to developing excellent home-school relationships with you all.

Mrs Ruth Dixon
Year 3 Year Group Leader and Deputy Head

Year 4

Welcome to Year 4! This year is a very exciting time for children, as they have already got themselves settled into the school and are familiar with all the routines. This has been shown by how eagerly they have come back to school and got to grips with their mini topics - each class is learning about a different part of the world this week, and hopefully will have some new facts to share with you already.

The autumn term is all about South America. The children will be learning about the geography of the region and creating Brazilian Street art, while the historical focus will be on the ancient and mysterious Maya. Indoor PE will be Zumba, while outdoor PE will be football. In English we will be exploring narratives through reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as an extended text. We will then compare this to traditional Mayan stories. We will also be learning about Fairtrade and its impact on the region.

Maths will start with a focus on place value and calculation, while developing fluidity and reasoning skills. We will be continuing with the times table challenge every week, and any opportunity to help practice times tables (up to 12x) at home would really help.

Mathletics homework will be set weekly. Should you not have access at home, there will be opportunities to attend Mathletics club. We will also be sending home weekly spellings to learn. Planners should travel to and from school each day. These allow recording of the weekly spellings, and for keeping a record of "home reads". We ask that every child aims to read at least 3 times a week to an adult. "Reads" are counted up weekly as each class competes to be the winners of the year group reading competition in celebration assembly.

Year 4 also benefit from specialist music lessons throughout the year, building to a grand percussion performance in the summer term. This work with drumming links nicely to our first science topic of sound, and then states of matter after half term.

PE and Games lessons are timetabled on the following days for each class:

- 4T: Monday (indoor) and Tuesday (outdoor)
- 4G: Tuesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor)
- 4W: Tuesday (indoor) and Friday (outdoor)
- 4S: Monday (outdoor) and Wednesday (indoor)

Please ensure your child has a fully named PE kit in school every day as lessons may be rescheduled. Shorts and T-shirts are required for indoor PE and trainers; tracksuit bottoms and jumpers are needed for outdoor games as the weather starts to get worse.

If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or myself, either in person, by phone, or by using the comments section of the planners. We are all very excited about working with your children and look forward to developing excellent home-school relationships with you all.

Mr Tarrant
Year 4 Year Group Leader

Year 5

A very warm welcome from the Year 5 staff to all the children, parents and carers in Year 5. Many exciting opportunities lie ahead and we have numerous enjoyable activities planned for this term.

The children have begun the new school year with a geography mini topic about the Angry Earth which has involved learning about and plotting earthquakes and volcanoes. Hopefully they will have already informed you of the varied activities they have been involved in and the new things they have discovered.

Our first main topic will be *World War One*. All reading, writing and art work will focus on this significant event in the hope that members of this generation will 'Never Forget'. The results of the children's work will be shared in the Remembrance assembly which the children will lead in November. We have a history expert visiting the children in a few weeks to provide a variety of hands on activities. There will be asking for a small donation for this (more details to follow.)

Our second main topic will be *Plastic* and the effect that this has on our local environment. Again all reading, writing and art will draw inspiration from this area and we are hoping that the children will feel inspired to initiate some changes in their locality.

Maths will initially focus on place value as well as developing skills in all four rules of number. Multiplication tables knowledge is extremely important and by Year 5 it is expected that children can recall all of the multiplication facts at speed. The autumn term will focus on speed of recall of the 2,5,10 multiplication tables and accompanying division facts. While we will be teaching these skills and chanting our tables in the classroom, please spend as much time as possible helping your child to be as secure as possible in this area.

Daily reading continues to be of importance to the Year 5 children, especially reading to an adult at home. Across our year group we will be holding an inter-year reading competition, with rewards to be earned. Please remember to sign your child's reading record each time you hear them read - every signature counts on the reading challenge!

Maths homework will be set every Friday and be expected to be completed by the following Wednesday. This will usually be a Mathletics activity. Sometimes, maths skills need additional practice and we may re-set work which has previously been allocated. The computer program will usually generate different questions so please do not worry if your child is given a similar activity to do later in the term or year. If the children are unable to access Mathletics at home, then a club is run every Tuesday lunchtime to enable them to complete their homework.

PE and Games occur on the following days for each class:

- 5B: Tuesday and Friday
- 5N: Monday and Friday
- 5I: Monday and Friday
- 5W: Monday and Tuesday
- 5By: Tuesday and Friday

Please ensure your child has a fully named PE kit in school every day as lessons may be rescheduled. Shorts and T-shirts are required for indoor PE. Trainers, tracksuit bottoms and jumpers are needed for outdoor games as we do still go outside for games in winter if it is dry!

We are all very excited about the year ahead and providing the best opportunities for your children. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or myself, either in person, by phone, or by using the comments section of the planners.

Mrs J Broadbent
Year 5 Year Group Leader

Year 6

We would like to wish a very warm welcome back to school to all our year 6 children, who are embarking on their final year with us. Year 6 is an important year for our children as they begin to grow up and get ready for senior school. Part of this process is sitting the national end of Key Stage 2 tests which will be taken over four days in May. On Wednesday 19th September, at 6pm, we will be holding an information evening for parents about the tests so that you are aware of the expectations at the end of Key Stage 2 and how you can support your child throughout this year. You will get chance to look through some sample papers and ask any questions about the work we do in school. In the past parents have found this a helpful insight into what children are expected to be able to achieve when they leave Junior School and is a useful preparation for future homework. There will also be a chance to ask any questions about our residential trip to Dobroyd Castle as there are still places available.

Our autumn theme is our Natural World. We will begin by exploring different parts of the world then focusing on the rainforest, learning more about the animals we share our world with. Children will have an exciting opportunity to meet animals from the rainforest when we have a visit from Zoolab on 2nd and 3rd of October. We explore our animal world further through our science topics when we learn about evolution and inheritance and how our animal kingdom is identified and grouped through classification. We will continue the animal theme in art and design technology lessons after half term when children will have the opportunity to create their own animal shelters. For this project we will need cardboard and other natural materials so please save anything that might be helpful at home. All contributions are very welcome.

We have found that a little extra homework has helped pupils get to grips with the trickier bits of the curriculum so, in addition to maths homework, children may also receive grammar or reading homework. Unlike other year groups, maths homework will not exclusively be online and when appropriate, paper homework may also be sent. This is in addition to the regular reading which is recorded in our planners, and the usual spelling practice. Although homework will increase, it should never be unmanageable.

Children will need full PE kit including trainers on the following days:

- 6C: Tuesday & Thursday
- 6RH: Tuesday & Thursday
- 6M: Wednesday & Thursday
- 6B: Tuesday & Thursday

If you have any questions regarding our work in school or queries or concerns regarding your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are looking forward to working with our year 6 pupils as they mature and grow into confident young people and prepare for the next stage in their education.

Mrs Mudd
Year 6 Year Group Leader