

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a huge thank you for all our wonderful gifts at the end of last term. We hope you have all had a lovely summer and that you and your children are looking forward to the new school year. Each term we will be sending out an information leaflet like this, to let you know about our upcoming learning. We very much look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year.

Topics and Topic Links

In Lower Key Stage 2, our topic for the whole term will be **Stones & Bones**. This History topic will explore how the Stone Age to Bronze Age period impacted life in Britain. We will learn about how early man survived in a harsh environment, why Skara Brae was important for understanding life in the Stone Age, how copper mining was crucial to the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. We will also learn about why Iron Age people developed hillforts and how important Druids were in Iron Age Britain. In **ART** lessons we will be studying Ancient cave art.

Wherever possible, we link our **English** and **Reading** lessons to our topics.

English

We mostly use the **Herts for Learning** English modules. These modules cover fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing. This term they include 'Riddles', 'Explanations' and 'Descriptive Settings'. While exploring the different writing styles and structure of each genre, we will also look at developing children's **vocabulary** within their writing and other vocabulary building activities. Each term, a module called 'Take One Book' will enable us to explore a chosen text in greater detail. **Grammar** teaching will be incorporated into the teaching of writing, but may also take place in standalone grammar lessons. In addition, we will be carrying out daily **Guided Reading** sessions (these may be whole class or smaller groups) and a number of dedicated **spelling** sessions each week. The children will also continue to develop their **handwriting** skills.

Maths

In Maths, we use the **Herts for Learning** materials along with other resources to support our teaching of the Primary Curriculum. Techniques to support learning include partner talk, games, book work, investigations, use of concrete materials and many other techniques. In the first term, we focus on developing a secure understanding of place value and times table facts; exploring mental and written methods for addition and subtraction - and solving problems relating to measure and perimeter.

Science

During the second half of the term we will be exploring **States of Matter**. This topic will have a focus on Solids, Liquids and Gases as well as the Water Cycle.

Other Subjects

In **RE**, we will be learning about the similarities and differences in festivals held around the World. We also study how Hindus express their faith. **PSHE** lessons will follow the JIGSAW scheme of work. This term we look at what is special about me and celebrating differences amongst us. **PE** lessons will include the development of Tri-golf, tactics and communication, tennis and problem solving. Our topics in **Computing** this term will be online safety, coding and spreadsheets. **Music** will focus on musical appreciation from classical to popular tunes. During the second half of the term, we will explore the intricacies of levers and linkages in **Design and Technology**.

Home Learning:

This term we will be going **digital** with home learning - further details will be provided in due course. One piece of **Maths homework** will be set on a **Thursday** and will be expected to be completed by the following **Tuesday**. Practice of **multiplication tables** at home is also essential. The expectations for the end of Year 4 are that ALL children should know their **times tables** (and related facts) up to 12 x 12. **Towards the end of the year, the children will sit the new 'Multiplication tables Check'**. Therefore, your support in encouraging practice of multiplication tables at home would be greatly appreciated, as this knowledge feeds into many areas of Maths. Resources such as the Times Table Rockstars website & the BBC Sport Times Table videos/songs can be fun ways of practising.

English homework consists of **regular reading & spelling practice**, which feeds into so many areas of learning.

Reading:

- Children should aim to read **daily where possible**, reading on at least **three out of the five weekdays** and **once at the weekend**.
- Many children who are confident free readers will like to read in their head, but it is a good idea if they can **read aloud to you at least once a week**.
- Please support us in confirming that your child has read **by recording your initials** in the KS2 Home/School Organiser each time your child reads independently or to you. Please do talk with your child about their reading – fluency is not just about decoding words but also being able to comprehend the subject matter.

Spelling:

- We are now using the brand new **Herts Essential Spelling** scheme. Each week the children will explore a particular rule or pattern. For homework, they will be set an activity related to this rule/pattern. Each half term they will also receive a selection of the Year 3 and 4 statutory words to practice at home. They will be assessed on these at the end of each half-term.

From time to time, additional homework may be set from another subject.

Other Information

PE

Year 4 PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday** and **Thursdays**. In light of current advice, we are asking children to wear their PE kits rather than their school uniform to school on the days that they have PE. It is our intent that children will take every opportunity to be active outside and therefore should have appropriate clothing for the activity.

PE kit must include: trainers and plimsols (in case trainers become muddy from outdoor use), St Andrew's PE t-shirt, shorts and **plain, navy** joggers/leggings and hoodie.

Water Bottles

All children should have a named water bottle in school every day.

Pencil Cases

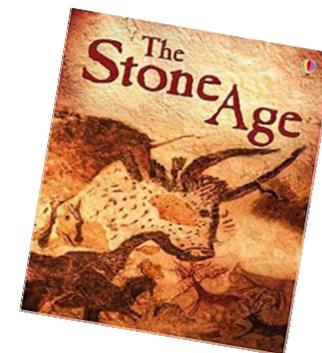
Children do not need to bring a pencil case or stationary from home as school will provide children with all the necessary equipment for their individual use in class.

Website

A copy of this information letter, along with a curriculum map and further information about our learning, will shortly be available on the St. Andrew's website.

www.standrews236.herts.sch.uk

(Click on the 'Classes' link and then on Year 4)



Year 4



Autumn Term 2020