

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 4 SUMMER TERM 2024

WELCOME BACK

Wow—the year is flying by. How can we be in our final term already? We have been busy planning lots of exciting activities and are looking forward to making the most of the better weather to be outside more as part of our learning and enrichment time. Our highlights will be our Year 4 Sports Day and the residential outdoor activity trip.

ENGLISH

For the first half term, our writing will be linked to our Geography topic on North America. The children will be writing a cowboy journey story and a non-chronological report about North American animals. Our focus text for the second half term is *Arthur and the Golden Rope* by Joe Todd-Stanton. This is based on Norse mythology and links closely to our Vikings topic. We will be using the text as a stimulus to write a 'conquering a monster' tale. If your child would like to read more around the topic, *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo is a great read.

Spellings will continue to be sent home on a Monday, to be tested the following Monday and homework sheets should be handed in each week.

MATHEMATICS

We continue to use the Maths No Problem curriculum as the main basis for our Maths lessons alongside regular arithmetic and times table practise. Please continue to support your children with 'real life' maths—telling the time, calculating and using money and measurement (weight, distance and capacity).

In June, the children will be tested on their times tables using the Government's Multiplication Table Check. Please help your children to become proficient and fluent in their times tables up to 12 x 12. TTRS and Doodle Tables can be used to support this. Doodle Maths should be used, little and often, to help fill any missing gaps and consolidate school learning. The children should try to stay in the green zone at all times—this forms part of our Maths homework expectations, along with regular use of TTRS.

COMPUTING

This term the children will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. If they would like to have a go at home, they can use a tablet, desktop or laptop computer to access Turtle Academy online at turtleacademy.com/playground or to download FMSLogo from fmslogo.sourceforge.net.

SCIENCE

Our first science topic this term will explore animals and their habitats, looking at how living things can be classified in different ways according to their features. We will also examine how habitats change and the impact of this on the animals that live there. Our second topic revisits previous learning about teeth and the digestive system looking in more detail about why carnivores, herbivores and omnivores have different teeth and also at factors that may affect our own oral health and how we can improve this.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In French this term, the children will be learning how to describe the weather, key phrases to use 'in town', how to say how they got to school (transport) and the names of classroom objects. In Spanish, the focus will be on celebrations, months of the year, pets, food and how to express an opinion.

GEOGRAPHY

Our key question for Geography will be "How varied is the continent of North America?" This unit will look at how topography affects settlements and trade, how we can use geographical language to describe an area and how a country's geographical location affects many different factors.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Summer 1, the children will be covering their final unit on Judaism, looking at the enquiry question of "What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?". They will aim to understand how Jews show this, comparing their practices in order to explore which shows the most commitment. In Summer 2, the children will learn to understand how important going to church is to show someone is a Christian.

MUSIC

We are really excited that our music unit for this term will be taught by SoundStorm. They will be teaching the children how to play the Samba drums incorporating many skills including playing ensemble, looking at pulse, rhythm, meter, pitch, melody and harmony. They will also be developing the children's skills in reading music, composing and improvising.

HISTORY

“Why did the Vikings take to the seas?” This is our enquiry question for our History unit this term. We will be using our historical detective skills to uncover why the Vikings invaded Britain, what happened at Lindisfarne in 793, why Alfred signed a treaty with Gurthum, who the Norse Gods were and why King Cnut tried to stop the tide from coming in!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Gym and Games will be taught weekly. Please ensure that children come to school on the days they have Gym or Games in their PE kit. Leggings, tracksuit bottoms and shorts should be plain not patterned.

4AL Thursday and Friday

4NS Tuesday and Wednesday

4NJ Tuesday and Wednesday

4PG Tuesday and Thursday

Shoulder length hair should be tied back (boys and girls) and all jewellery removed. Newly pierced ears must be covered with tape supplied from home.

ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

During the first Summer half term we will be using our local beach at Hengistbury Head and the New Forest as our inspiration for exploring the medium of printing through the style of Henri Matisse. After half term we will be making electronic games, linking our DT work with our science topic.

HOME LEARNING

In order to consolidate the children's learning, home learning tasks will be set each week. The children should be completing the following:

- Weekly **spelling** task handed out each Monday with words for children to learn (spelling tests will usually be the following Monday)
- Every child should **read regularly** at home aiming for an average of around 20 minutes at least 4 times per week. It will benefit your child greatly if they are encouraged to discuss the language, characters and plot lines when they read aloud at home. Please encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction.
- Please support your child in learning their **multiplication and division facts** as they will need to know up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. They are required to play **Times Tables Rock Star** as part of their homework at least twice a week for around 5-10 minutes per session (20 minutes per week). **Doodle Tables** can also be used to support this.
- All children should be using **Doodle Maths**, little and often, to stay in the green zone.

If your child has any problems accessing any of the online programmes at home, please speak to their class teacher ASAP so we can ensure they have additional provision in school to complete their sessions. Thank you for your support with this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Christchurch Library visits (19 April 4PG, 25 April 4NJ, 26 April 4NS, 3 May 4AL)
- Friday 24 May—last day of term
- Monday 3 June—INSET day—school closed to children
- 4 June—14 June Multiplication Tables Check
- Wednesday 12 June—Year 4 Sports Day
- w/b 8 July— Camping residential (4NJ & 4AL Tues/Wed, 4NS & 4PGThurs/Fri)
- Thursday 11 July—reports home
- Monday 15 July—open evening
- Tuesday 23 July—last day of Year 4. We will miss you!

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive term. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Serle

Year Leader / Class 4NS

Mrs Arnold / Miss Lattimore

Class 4AL

Miss Jackson

Class 4NJ

Mr Gorsuch

Class 4PG