

Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 4,

Welcome back! And welcome to your new class...Deer! The 6 weeks have flown by, but I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are fully rested in preparation for the busy but fun term ahead.



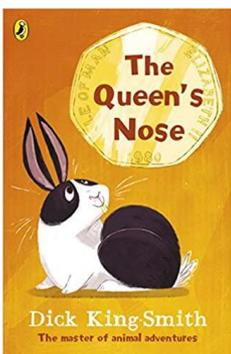
During our transition morning we decided what Deer Team will be this year; Determined, Explorative, Enthusiastic and Respectful. We will all work together as a TEAM as Together Everyone Achieves More. I am extremely excited that we are able to have 1 to 1 use of iPads in Deer class as they are an amazing learning tool. I have used iPads in the classroom for 3 years now, where there are constantly new and exciting ways to teach and support the children in their learning. I hope everyone will settle into their new classroom and enjoy the lessons that are to come.

English

Reading is a school priority where we will have daily reading sessions using a core class book and extracts linked to the book ensuring the children are provided with a range of text types with high-quality vocabulary. A big emphasis is placed on encouraging children to become confident independent readers who can read a wide range of literature and gain a secure understanding of what is being read. We have many books in our class library for the children to choose books that are suitably challenging and engaging to bring home.

Reading for pleasure is of huge significance, with the increased amount of time the average child spends on screen time the amount of time children will sit quietly and read is significantly reducing, this not only has an impact on their ability to read fluently and with stamina and pace but is having an impact on children's oral and written language too. The more we encourage and model reading behaviour the greater impact on them we will have. Therefore, within reading sessions I will read parts of the text for the children to listen to for pleasure and immerse themselves in a range of texts.

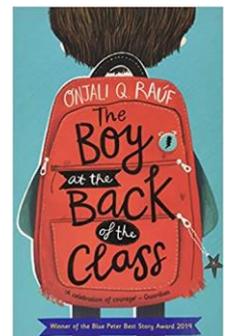
Please encourage your child to read at home and take the time to question and discuss what they have read. This questioning will deepen the children's understanding of what they read and this will in turn increase their enjoyment of books so that they can read more complex texts.



I love reading to the class, to see them fully immersed and engaged in the story and desperately wanting to hear what happens next. For the first half of the term, our book is 'The Queen's Nose' by Dick King Smith and then 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf in the second half term.

I am excited to share the magic of 'The Queen's Nose' with the children as I loved this as a child. It is about a girl called Harmony Parker who adores animals although she doesn't have a pet of her own! However, Harmony sees all people as non-human species, for example her mother was a tubby, fussy Pouter Pigeon. When her Uncle Ginger visits from India, he gives Harmony a very special present. She ends up with a magical coin where your wishes will come true. I wonder what wishes you would all make if you had a magic fifty pence piece?

Whereas, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', is the story of a group of classmates who, through their empathy and bravery, make an impact on Ahmet, a boy who has come to their school as a refugee from Syria. The friends embark on a daring adventure in their quest to help Ahmet. This powerful story highlights the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that often makes little sense.



This year to encourage the children to read a range of texts we will 'read around the world'. The book covers are displayed in the classroom on a world map to show where in the world the story is set. The challenge is to see how many of these books your child can read in addition to their school books. There are 10 books on the map already to get you started then I will add new books each term. The recommended reads for our 'Read around the world display' can be found on our class page. Where will your reading take you this year?

In Writing, we will write an adventure story linked to our science learning, a news report and diary entries linked to our history learning, poems which explore form, a persuasive advert and stories from other cultures linked to our Geography learning. To write each genre successfully we focus on the grammar needed within our daily writing sessions. For spellings, each week there will be 3 sessions where the rule will be taught, words will be applied in sentences and then reasoning and self-correction exercises will be completed. Use Spelling Shed where the rule will be set for the children to practice and the Year 3 and 4 statutory words are on our class page to practice at home.

Websites for extra work at home

[Spelling Shed - Spelling Shed - The Science of Spelling](#)

[KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Spelling and Grammar, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks](#)

[Spelling - KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

[spelling - Topmarks Search](#)

[Word lists, activities, tests and games \(spellzone.com\)](#)

Maths

As Mathematicians we will begin the term focusing on the place value of numbers up to 10,000 and we will learn how to add and subtract 4-digit numbers. In the second half of the term, we will look at using length and perimeter before moving onto multiplication and division.

By the end of Year 4 the children need to know all of their times tables so it is important that the children are practicing their times tables at home daily as well as in class through going on TTRS.



Websites for extra work at home:

[KS2 Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Most Popular Free Maths Games - Mathsframe](#)

[Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search](#)

Curriculum Subjects

In **Science** this first half of term the children will explore living things learning about habitats, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

Living things and their habitats

1. What are the characteristic of living things?
2. What animals are vertebrates?
3. What animals are invertebrates?

4. What groups are plants classified in?
5. What is classification? And How do I use a key?
6. What happens if the environment in a habitat changes?

Then in the second half of the term we will learn all about electricity.

In **Geography** children will learn about Rivers and then Latitude and Longitude in the second half of the term. These are the 2 main questions that our first study will focus on:

Rivers

1. What are the features of a river?
2. What's our local river and what features can we see?

In **History** this term our topic is the Anglo- Saxons, these are the 6 main questions our study will focus on:

Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots

1. Why did The Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?
2. Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?
3. What was life like for Anglo-Saxons in Britain?
4. What kingdoms were formed by the Anglo-Saxons?
5. How do we know about the Anglo-Saxons?
6. How did religion influence the Anglo-Saxons? And How do we know this?

Other subjects overview

In Art and Design, the children will begin with developing their drawing skills and then learn the skills of printing. Children will refine their drawing skills, focusing on lines and detail. They will select drawing materials based on their understanding of the possible marks that can be made.

In DT, we will learn how to adapt a recipe with a focus on biscuits. This will include a 'Biscuit Bake off' at the end of our unit which I can't wait for. 😊 Then in the second half term the children will apply their scientific understanding of electrical circuits to create a torch made from easily available materials and objects. They will also design and evaluate their product against set design criteria

In Computing, we will begin with Online Safety which is vital as technology is such a huge part of future generations. In the second half of the term the children will work on their programming skills through using Scratch for Coding.

In PSHE, we will use our Jigsaw Jazz to help learn about 'Being me in my world' focusing on team work, our school community, rights, responsibilities and democracy.

In RE, the children will study: Judaism learning their belief and practice, Buddhism understanding Buddha's teachings and Christianity focusing on Christmas.

In French, we will be learning how to say Hello and ask How are you? , What is your name? and How old are you?. Then we will also learn about 'My Family' so the children will be able to talk about their family in French.

PE routines & PE kit expectations

For this term, Deer class will have **double PE** on a Wednesday. One of these sessions will be outdoors with Premier Sport and the second session will be gymnastics in the school hall.

Children need to have the correct school PE kit uniform, as in accordance with our uniform policy. We recommend children have shorts and t-shirt for gymnastics, as they will get warm inside, then a tracksuit they can put on over the top as they move outdoors for their second session. Furthermore, earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back. Finally, as always, please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform are clearly named and in a small bag that does up to avoid the kit falling out of the carrier bag or rucksack on to the floor. Ideally a drawstring bag is best.

Fortunately, Deer Class also have swimming lessons on a Friday morning for the Autumn term.

Playtimes

Where possible all playtimes will be on the field, we have a wide range of new equipment for them to enjoy and the space for them to run around and have fun. As the weather changes it is essential the children have an outdoor pair of trainers or wellies, which they can leave in school. A coat for wet weather and waterproof trousers or a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms they can slip over the top of their school clothes to avoid getting their uniform dirty. We have new welly racks for all classrooms, this will allow for us to store all outdoor shoes neatly.

Homework

Homework will continue with the weekly requirements of spellings, times tables and reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school.

The children will be continuing with their Times Table Rockstars work this year. This was really successful last year, and the children seemed to really enjoy the interactive nature of the scheme. The children will do four timed tests as part of each maths lesson and will have some time for the computer-based activities at a point in the week.

Final Note

If you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. You can send me a message on Class dojo which I check each day or catch me at the end of the school day. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Deer Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen. I am looking forward to meeting you all and teaching your child in Year 4.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support. 😊

Miss Jolland