

CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 4 AUTUMN TERM 2023

WELCOME BACK

Wow—what an amazing start we have had to Year 4! The children have returned to school with a great attitude, ready to learn and are looking super smart in their new uniforms. We look forward to an exciting and busy term ahead which includes getting out and about to extend our knowledge outside of the classroom (see below for details).

ENGLISH

Our first writing unit has been based on the book, *The Day The Crayons Quit*. The children took on the role of the green crayon to write a persuasive letter which they subsequently went on to publish. This term we will continue to focus on persuasive writing using *The Tale of Two Kitties* (Scruffy and Fluffy). We will also learn about recount writing in the form of a newspaper article using a short animation *Contre Temps* as our stimulus. This links with our Geography theme (see below).

Our Guided Reading is based on the modern fairy tale *The Iron Giant* by Ted Hughes. At CJS we use VIPERS skills to support our comprehension work. These are Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising.

MATHEMATICS

In maths we follow the Maths No Problem curriculum, which is a 'Maths for mastery approach to teaching maths'. Through this the children will be developing fluency (quick and accurate arithmetic skills) with number and applying appropriate strategies to support reasoning and solving real life problems. It would be helpful if children were encouraged to apply their maths at home, e.g. telling the time, working out change when shopping, measuring amounts for baking, etc.

Practising times tables is incredibly important and the children will be tested on all times tables facts in the summer term as part of the Government's Multiplication Table Check. Please continue to encourage the use of Times Tables Rock Stars.

COMPUTING

This term we will be learning about computer systems and how they work. This will develop the children's understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs.

SCIENCE

Our first science topic this term will explore Sound. We will look at how sounds are made through vibrations that travel to the ear, pitch and volume. For our second topic, we will be learning about electricity and will construct a simple electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.

SPANISH and FRENCH

We are very lucky to have our Modern Foreign Languages taught by a specialist teacher from Twynham School. Spanish will be taught in 4NS and 4AL and French will be taught in 4NJ and 4PG. Teachers will also incorporate the language in their classrooms.

GEOGRAPHY

This half term we are learning about the impact humans have on the earth's ecosystems. We will be looking at case studies around the world to help develop the children's locational and place knowledge. This will link closely with our understanding of being a responsible global citizen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In the first half of this term, we will study Judaism, focusing on the relationship Jews have with God. After half term, we will study Christianity, focusing on the Nativity Story.

HISTORY

Next half term we will be learning about the Romans, their how they lived and their influence on the world, especially their lasting legacies in England.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES

Gym / dance and outdoor Games will both be taught weekly. Please ensure that children come to school on the days they have Gym or Games in their PE kit.

4NS Tuesday and Wednesday

4AL Thursday and Friday

4NJ Tuesday and Wednesday

4PG Wednesday and Thursday

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

ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

During this half term, we will be looking at the work of Piet Mondrian and the abstract art movement and apply this to creating 2D and 3D pieces.

HOME LEARNING

In order to consolidate the children's learning, home learning tasks will be set each week. Thank you for your support with this. The timetable for these tasks is as follows:

- Weekly spelling task handed out each Friday with words for children to learn—these will be tested the following Friday.
- Every child should read regularly at home, with an aim of around 20 minutes at least 4 times per week. It would benefit your child greatly if they discuss the language, characters and plot lines. Please encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction. All children have a subscription to Reading Eggs or Reading Plus and should complete at least one session each week on the relevant programme.
- 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 asked to play Times Tables Rock Star as part of their homework at least twice a week for around 10 minutes per session.
- As a school, we have invested in individual subscriptions to Doodle Maths to support our Maths curriculum, help fill any gaps in Maths understanding and provide the children with the opportunity to deepen their learning. The programme works best with a 'little and often' approach. We hope the children will use the programme for a short time over a few days each week and aim to stay in the 'green zone' as much as possible.

TRIPS AND VISITS

This term we are planning a trip to Mudeford Sandspit to undertake a beach clean as part of our Geography unit. Next half term, we are planning to visit the Priory to learn about their preparations for Christmas and to help answer our RE enquiry question. We are also looking forward to a visit from Treehouse Theatre Company to bring our Roman learning to life. Our highlight of the year will be our Year 4 residential camping trip in the summer! More information about all of our trips will be shared soon.

We look forward to a fun, enjoyable and productive year!

Mrs Serle (4NS/Year Leader), Miss Jackson (4NJ), Mr Gorsuch (4PG), Mrs Arnold / Mrs Lattimore (4AL)