

Welcome Pearls!

Autumn 2023



Hello and welcome back to you and your family. We hope that you have had a lovely Summer and are looking forward to a exciting new school year. In this letter you will find important and useful information about the topics and skills we will be learning this term. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference for the rest of the term. In Pearls we encourage greater independence, aiming to build on and develop the skills acquired in previous years. We hope to continue to form strong links between home and school and are always happy to discuss any concerns with you. Please feel free to pop in and make an appointment if you have any worries. I will be teaching Tuesday - Friday and Mrs Holloway will teach on Mondays. Our lovely teaching assistant Mrs Pinhorn will be in every day.

DAILY ROUTINE

The children are expected to enter through the front gate from 8.35am to ensure that when lessons begin at 8.45am all children are ready to start. The gate will be locked at this time. The children will start the day with a short daily activity, this will be followed with spellings or times tables, then guided group reading, English and Maths. Some groups and individual children are also taken out of class in the mornings for work to support their individual needs, so we therefore ask that all children arrive into school on time so that these are not missed or disrupted. The foundation subjects, including science, will be taught in the afternoons. School finishes at 3.15pm when we will lead the children into the playground. Please try to make sure that your child knows how they are going home and if you are going to be late collecting your child please contact the school as soon as possible. The children are to wait in the playground until they are collected, unless we have had confirmation by you that they are allowed out of the school grounds.

THE CURRICULUM

TOPIC

As part of our creative curriculum, we aim to enrich children's learning by teaching through exciting topics which capture the children's imagination and enthusiasm. Our topic this term is 'Tomb Raiders'. This topic is predominantly history and geography, but other curriculum areas will be linked to this particular theme. We will also be reading a variety of linked books during reading.

During the first half term we will be learning about 'Ancient Egypt'. This will include a trip to the Haslemere museum (letter to follow).

After half term we will use our knowledge of Ancient Egypt and apply it to other Ancient Civilizations.



Helping at home - Please allow your child access to the internet, books and any other resources to find out information about our topic. There are also television programmes and video clips online, which would be great for the children to watch if they are interested in finding out more.

ENGLISH

We complete many English related activities during the day. Three times a week we teach spelling in year groups for twenty minutes before moving onto Group Reading. During this time we look at a text as a whole class and spend time working with different groups to improve reading. We then teach an English lesson when we focus on Writing, Grammar and Punctuation.

Reading

We teach the skills of reading daily in English lessons, during Group Reading, whilst reading with individuals and in other curriculum areas. Daily practice is needed to improve the skills of fluency and comprehension and we cannot over-emphasise the importance of encouraging your child to read at home. We suggest that this should take place at least four times a week for about 20 minutes. Independent readers also benefit from shared reading as it gives them the opportunity to discuss characters, plot etc. and improves comprehension.

It would be especially helpful if you could encourage your child to read over the weekend as well as all Reading Records are checked every Monday. **It is very important that your child remembers to hand this in as failure to do so will result in your child losing Rainbows End time at the end of each half term.**

Writing

Our writing this term will be linked to our topic whenever possible.

During the first half term we will be using:

- Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll. We will write poems, instructions, factfiles and narrative using the text as a driver.
- Tadeo Jones - short film. We will write character and setting descriptions and diary entries as well as using this to develop our understanding of figurative language.

After half term we will be using:

- Varjak Paw by S. F. Said. We will use this to write letters, newspaper articles and complete some drama.
- The Willow Pattern Story by Allan Drummond. We will use this text to write poems on a theme.

Each morning your child will also spend some time developing their handwriting

Helping at home - Children learn so many skills for their writing from their reading. Please encourage your child to **read every day** for at least 20 minutes. This could be anything your child is interested in; magazines, comics, newspapers, fictional books, non-fictional books and internet resources.

Spelling

Spelling takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. During this time we will be focusing on different spelling rules. Every Friday your child will bring home three spellings to learn for a test the following Friday. They will need to understand the meaning of the words and put them into sentences. We will also be focusing on grammar and punctuation during these sessions.

MATHS

Maths will be taught for an hour each morning. During this time we will focus on mathematical reasoning, problem solving and fluency.

This term we will be focusing on:

- Place Value
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions
- Measurement: Area.



Times Tables

Learning our times tables is an important part of our daily routine. The Year 4 children will partake in national testing for Multiplication Tables in June next year. We encourage the children to use TTRockstars and Doodle daily in order to learn their times tables up to 12 x 12 fluently. Every day your child will complete a times tables test where they will need to score 50 in 3 minutes (3 times consecutively) in order to move to the next times table.

SCIENCE

Our science this term is Sound. We will:

- learn how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating
- recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear
- find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it
- find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.
- recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases
- complete investigations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We will have one/two P.E. sessions each week which will be on a Thursday and every other Friday afternoon. Both sessions will be taught by our JC Sports coaches. Please ensure that the children wear the correct kit into school and they are clearly labelled with your child's name. P.E. lessons will be inside and outside each week, so please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for cold days. On the days when P.E. is taught, please tie long hair back and remove earrings. If your child is unable to participate in a P.E. lesson, please contact me otherwise we will assume they are able to participate in the lesson.

COMPUTING

ICT will be embedded into the curriculum as much as possible and the children will have the opportunity to work on the laptops for regular sessions every week to develop their digital literacy. This will be taught by Mrs Holloway every other Monday afternoon. The children will be using Scratch and Purple Mash to design, write and debug algorithms as well as learning other skills. Please try and encourage your child to use their Purple Mash logins at home to further develop their work in class.



HOMEWORK

The general purpose of homework is to develop effective partnerships between home and school, consolidate skills, particularly in English and Maths, extend school learning, eg. through additional reading and encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence, self-discipline and independence needed to study on their own, which will prepare them for the requirements of secondary school. In Pearls the children are expected to complete 1½ hours of homework each week.

This time includes:

- Reading
- Spelling practise
- TTRockstars and other forms of learning multiplication tables.

We are trying to get all children in class to read and practice times tables AT LEAST 4 times a week, as this is a major part of their homework, they may lose Rainbow's End time and possibly playtimes if this is not completed each week.

As well as this your child will also receive one formal piece of homework related to reading or maths each week. This will either be set via Doodle (letter to follow) or will be sent home on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday.

DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

If you wish to speak to me about any concerns or queries that you may have please make an appointment or catch me on the playground. We look forward to a new term with your child and making their time at Buriton Primary School as enjoyable as possible.

Thank you,

Mrs Evans