



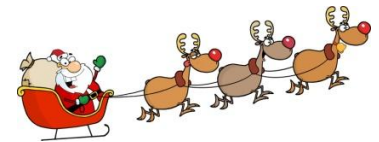
Thameside Primary School Year 3 and 4 News December 2020

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

After the strangest of starts to this academic year, we would like to thank all parents/carers for your help and support throughout these testing times. We appreciate that certain things, like speaking to teachers, has become trickier and thank you for your continuous adaptability. Most importantly, I feel that it is important to acknowledge the children's resilience this term and how brilliantly they have adapted to all the never-ending changes here at Thameside; they have been absolute superstars! Welcome to any new starters who have joined us (especially those from abroad) and slotted into their new classes under these unusual circumstances.

Having led Green Team for over three years, I will be moving into Year 6 after Christmas to take over Mr Gunn's class as well as his phase leader role. We would like to wish him well in his new exciting role as Deputy Head at Aldermaston CE Primary School – he will be missed by both staff and children! GHM will be in safe hands with Miss Slingsby who will be taking over in January in her first teaching role since completing her teaching course.

More than ever, we all wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year. Here's hoping that 2021 brings some much needed sparkle and positivity into everyone's lives!



Miss Maddock (Team Leader)

Year 3




Hail Caesar! After Christmas, Year 3 will be learning about the Romans. In History, the children will be finding out about Roman invasions, armies and daily life. They will have an exciting Roman Day where they will be learning about this time in history through hands on learning! In Maths they will be focusing on measurement as well as solving real-life problems. In DT, they will focus on Roman sculptures and in Science they will be looking at forces and magnets. In English, the children will be looking at Tales of Fear and the type of language used in these stories. This term RE will focus on Christianity, where the children will have the opportunity to discuss miracles and explore the importance of Good Friday for Christians. They will be learning about the importance of 'Moving Outside' in PSHE. The children will participate in dance (GBF) or gymnastics (GLE) during their indoor sessions and they will work on their cricket skills during outdoor PE sessions.

Year 4

In January, Year 4 will be learning about life in the Viking times in our history topic. We will explore what life was like, discovering Norse Mythology and we are looking forward to our Viking Day (Tuesday 23rd February) and the many costumes that the children will appear in! Our art will focus on using a range of media to create our own Viking seascape. Maths will focus on multiplication, fractions and decimals (please refer to the school website, curriculum, mathematics for a more detailed breakdown of the maths objectives). In English we will be creating and writing our own meeting tales and discussion texts based on Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Throughout all English teaching there will be a strong emphasis on spelling and grammar (please refer to the school website, curriculum, English for more information about the grammar objectives and a weekly spelling breakdown). Science will focus on animals, including humans where the children will explore the importance of a balanced diet and investigate the effects of exercise on their body. This will link closely to our PE sessions where gymnastics and dance will be the focus for indoor sessions, while outdoor PE will focus on invasion games. The children will continue to learn about special places and how different faiths worship in RE, while in PSHE children will be investigating the key 'Move Outside'.



<p>PE kits and clothing</p> <p>It is important that your child has the correct PE kit in school at all times. For indoor PE children need shorts and a t-shirt and for outdoor PE we recommend shorts/tracksuit trousers, a t-shirt and a sweatshirt, especially when the weather turns colder. All PE kit should be plain and not have logos or slogans.</p> <p>As we develop our outdoor curriculum it is important that your child has the correct outdoor clothing e.g. warm waterproof coat, hat and gloves when the weather turns colder. We aim to use the outdoor environment to teach across the curriculum, therefore not only will your children be outside during break and lunchtime they could also be applying their maths skills in a maths lesson!</p>	<p>Water</p>  <p>We know that children learn better if they are well hydrated so we encourage children to drink water throughout the day. There are no cups available in school therefore it is essential that they have a water bottle with a sports top. These can be bought from the office for 30p or you are welcome to provide your own.</p>
<p>Facebook/Twitter</p> <p>If you haven't already, 'like' our pages on Facebook and Twitter for regular blog updates and to see what has been happening across the whole school. Photos are posted daily so don't miss out on seeing what your child has been up to!</p> 	<p>Website</p> <p>Our website contains a wealth of information to help keep you informed of what is happening at school. Please check out the curriculum pages to find out more about each particular subject area and the letters home page to ensure you don't miss any important information.</p> 
<p>Homework</p> <p>Supporting your child with their homework is a great way of showing them that you value their education and it gives you an insight into the learning that is taking place at school. Please ensure that you are aware of the homework expectations below.</p> <p>Maths homework - this will be set every short term using Sumdog. We expect children to complete 30 minutes each week and this is monitored – please speak to your class teacher if there are difficulties completing this.</p> <p>Own Work - this will be set every short term. We aim to provide a range of activities for children to complete that support several subject areas. Completed Own Work is shared with the class, a small group or a partner. Presenting these provides a great opportunity for your child to develop their speaking and listening skills.</p> <p>Reading - It is expected that children read for 10 minutes each night and that a comment is recorded, either by the child or an adult. Reading records will be checked regularly to monitor reading at home.</p>	<p>Times Tables</p> <p>The Government introduced a times tables assessment for all Year 4 children last year. We have begun practising for this throughout Green Team and would like to emphasise the importance of times table practice at home too. 'Every little helps', the key being little and often!</p> 
<p>Key Dates (Covid Dependent)</p> <p>Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 2nd February</p> <p>Number Day: Friday 5th February</p> <p>Enrichment Day: Friday 12th February</p> <p>Year 4 Viking Day: Tuesday 23rd February</p> <p>Parent-Teacher Meetings: Monday 1st/Wednesday 3rd March</p> <p>M&M Production (Scrooge): Monday 1st March</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 4th March</p> <p>Enrichment Day: Friday 26th March</p> <p>Aspiration Afternoon: Friday 12th March</p> <p>World Storytelling Day: Friday 19th March</p> <p>Egg-cellent Reading Reward: Wednesday 31st March</p> 	<p>Thameside Bank Reminder</p> <p>Despite school restrictions, the school bank continues to run. Children are able to open accounts; this is especially helpful for those that are saving up for the Year 4 Camp next Summer! All accounts are held with Berkshire Credit Union and interest is paid annually. If your child is interested in opening an account, please come to the school office where Mrs Raciborska or Mrs Evans can provide you with more information.</p> 