

Henry Chadwick Primary School

Year 3/4 Newsletter - Spring 1 2026



English:

This half term we are going to focus our English work on 'The little match stick girl strikes back' by Emma Carroll for 3 weeks. This book is set in the Victorian period which links to our history topic 'How children's lives have changed'.

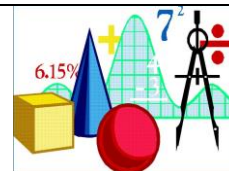
We will then read and discuss the great Kapok tree which links to our Geography topic.

This half term we will focus on sentence journey to ensure that children understand grammar and the purpose of it to form sentences correctly as well as using the correct terminology for grammar. This will begin with looking at nouns, common nouns and proper nouns. Children will partake in activities such as treasure hunts around the school and trading nouns games. We will then develop an understanding of collective and partitive nouns. Furthermore, grammar focus will be on verbs, subjects and single clause sentences.

Spelling - Each week we will learn a spelling pattern which will be set on spelling frame.

Maths:

In Maths, we are continuing our focus on multiplication and division. We will be using concrete equipment including counters and base 10 (dienes) as well as partitioning and using the formal method. Using different strategies will develop our mathematical skills to deepen our understanding of multiplication and division as well as using efficient methods.



Topic

In History, children in Years 3 and 4 will learn about how children's lives have changed over time. They will compare their own lives with those of children in the past, exploring differences in school, home life, toys, work and leisure. Pupils will use a range of historical sources, such as photographs, objects and stories, to find out what childhood was like in different periods and to understand how historians learn about the past. They will also learn about key similarities and differences across time, helping them to develop a sense of chronology and an understanding of how changes in society, technology and education have shaped children's everyday lives.

In Geography, children in Years 3 and 4 will explore rainforests through by learning where the world's rainforests are located and why they are found near the Equator. They will discover the key features of tropical rainforests, including the hot, wet climate and the different layers of the rainforest, such as the emergent layer, canopy, understory and forest floor. Pupils will learn about the wide variety of plants and animals that live in rainforests and how they are adapted to this unique environment. They will also consider the importance of rainforests to the planet and people, as well as the impact of human activity, such as deforestation, helping them to understand why rainforests need to be protected.

Science

In Science, we will explore how **forces** are pushes and pulls that make objects start to move, speed up, slow down or change direction, and will investigate how friction affects movement on different surfaces. Children will learn that gravity is a force that pulls objects toward the Earth and will carry out practical enquiries to compare how things move on a range of surfaces. In the topic of **magnets**, pupils will discover that magnets attract some materials and not others, observe how magnetic forces can act at a distance and learn about the significance of magnetic poles, including how opposite poles attract and like poles repel.



Computing

In computing, children will use ipads to create video trailers.
We will learn to:

- Describe the purpose of a trailer.
- Create a storyboard for a book trailer.
- Consider camera angles when taking photos or videos.
- Import videos and photos into film editing software.
- Add text to a video.
- Incorporate transitions between images.
- Evaluate their own and others' trailers.

RE

In Religious Education children will learn about what makes some texts sacred. They will explore the different ways scriptures are used, what this shows about the value placed on them and why this might be.



PHSE

Our focus for this half term will be to continue learning about friendships and relationships where children will join in class discussions about being kind, talking about feelings and making the right choices.



P.E:

PE takes place on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoon with Mrs Thurstance and Mrs Randall. On Tuesday, children will go swimming at the new leisure centre in Lichfield. Please make sure that children have the correct swimming kit with them on Tuesday.

On Thursday afternoons, physical education focus is on gymnastics using the apparatus. Children will develop a range of actions, body shapes and balances to include in a performance. Children will also learn and discuss about how their body reacts during different activities and the affects it has on their body.

Please ensure children are wearing their full PE kits with appropriate trainers, not Astro turf or Canvas shoes.

Reading

The children will be bringing home either a banded book or a free reader from the library. We cannot express enough the importance of hearing your children read regularly and asking them questions about the book that they are reading. This builds up a range of skills that are vital to your child's progress in all areas of the curriculum. The expectation is that children read at home at least three times a week and that this is recorded by an adult in their planners.

Golden Mile

Each afternoon we will be going outside to take part in the 'golden mile' by either walking or running. This is not competitive and the children will only do what they can and are comfortable with.

Homework

Weekly homework will be set via the school website and sent home on a paper copy if requested. Homework will be set each week on a Monday to be returned on a Friday.

Communication

We will continue to inform you of your child's achievements through text messages.

Please remember that the door is always open and if you have any concerns or queries, we will happily meet you at a convenient time to discuss these.

Mrs Thurstance.