

# Rabbit Class Newsletter

## Spring 2024



Happy new year! The children have returned refreshed and eager to learn. It has been lovely to hear all about their adventures and exciting holiday news. I am really looking forward to the Spring Term and all the thrilling learning there is to come.

### Adults in Year 4 are as follows:

If you need to **contact us** about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Miss Woods – [iwoods@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:iwoods@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk)

Mrs Hynard – [shynard@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk](mailto:shynard@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk)

All emails will be answered as soon as possible.

### Lunches and snack

From Year 4, children no longer get funded school lunches, unless they are entitled to free school meals. Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home. Please make sure you have **funds in your Arbor account** if your child will be eating school lunches. They can mix and match school lunches and packed lunches throughout the week.

Fruit snack is no longer provided by the Government from Year 4. **Children may bring in their own snack, but this must be a piece of fruit.**

### Drop off and collection

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. Children walk through the playground to their classroom. Please try to be on time, because we often do one to one reading during the first part of the day.

Collection – at **3.15pm**, from the Y4 cloakroom door (near the play equipment).

### What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

**Please label ALL clothing!**

## Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more!**

We don't set any regular formal home learning activities at Tewin Cowper. Instead, we really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication...to name but a few things!

Please aim to do the following **every day**:

- **Listen to** your child read, and **record this each time** in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- **Read to/with** your child every day, and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Children will be reading in school (either with an adult or independently) a few times a week, so please make sure they bring in their reading folders **every** day, or they might miss their reading slot.

We will also be encouraging the use of Times Table Rockstars at home to support with times tables, and there will be other optional home learning projects and activities – watch this space!

## Library

We will have a class library slot will be once a week. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each Wednesday so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

## Class reading book

Our first whole-class reading for pleasure book will be **The boy at the back of the classroom** by Onjali Rauf

We will be enjoying some of this as a class each day. If your child would like to buy a copy of the book, so they can follow it in class as we read, they are welcome to. This is not essential, though!

## PE

PE in Year 4 will take place on **Monday and Friday**, unless you are told otherwise. PE will take place from the first week back. **Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper.** Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days. If you have ordered your child's kit but it has not arrived yet, please let them wear the old kit for now, and then use the new kit as soon as you have it.

They will be doing half of their PE lessons outside this first half term, so must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

# Spring Term: learning overview

## English

Unit 1: Inform writing – focusing on Newspaper reports and real – life mysteries.

Unit 2: Persuasive writing – focusing on travel writing.

Unit 3: Narrative Writing – looking at the text Leon and the Place between.

Unit 4: Poetry – reading and writing Haikus.

The texts we will be using this term include:

- Real-Life Mysteries
- Africa, Amazing Africa
- Take A Bite India
- Incredible India
- The Big Book of the UK
- Leon and the Place Between
- The Works: Every Kind of Poem You will Ever Need

## Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

Throughout the rest of the term, we will be looking at:

- 3, 6 and 9 times tables
- 7 times tables and patterns
- Understanding and manipulating multiplicative relationships
- Coordinates

You can help your child at home by focusing on key skills and maths fluency. This could include practicing number bonds and times tables. Hit the button is a brilliant website for practising this, it is interactive and quickly develops mental maths skills.

Times tables are vital in Year 4 so please ensure that you are practising **all of your times tables**.

One Minute Maths – a free app to practice maths fluency.

TT Rockstars – for rehearsal of known times tables.

## PE

The class is taught by Premier Education for one lesson, and Miss Woods for the other. This first half term, the children will be doing both fitness and invasion games. In Spring 2, they will move onto Yoga and Dodgeball.

## Music

A topic of discovery; children will explore the rainforest through music and be introduced to new musical terms. They will also use a mixture of body percussion and tuned percussion instruments as the children create their own rhythms of the rainforest, layer by layer.

## **Science**

**States of Matter:** Investigating the properties of solids, liquids, and gases, the children learn about states of matter, explore changes of state through relatable examples, explain water cycle changes and study how temperature affects the rate of evaporation

**Energy: Sounds and Vibrations:** Exploring different ways of producing sounds, the children learn how vibrations relate to what they hear, how pitch and volume can be altered and how sound can be insulated with different materials.

## **History**

How hard was it to invade and settle in Britain? We will develop an understanding of why people invaded and settled, learning about Anglo-Saxon beliefs and the spread of Christianity and assessing the contribution of the Anglo-Saxons to modern Britain.

## **Geography**

Where does our food come from? We will be looking at the distribution of the world's biomes and mapping food imports from around the world; learning about trading fairly, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire and cocoa beans; exploring where the food for the children's school dinners comes from and the argument of 'local versus global'.

## **Art**

This term's focus will be painting and mixed media: Light and dark. We will be developing skills in colour mixing, focusing on using tints and shades to create a 3D effect.

## **Design and Technology**

**Structures: Pavilions.** We will be investigating and modelling frame structures to improve their stability, then apply this research to design and create a stable, decorated pavilion.

## **PSHE**

We will be focusing on keeping safe and managing different risks around us. Next, we will be moving onto Rights and Respect looking at how to help people who help us.

## **French**

Children will learn to talk about their family and different fruits.

## **Computing**

We will continue with our online safety learning – how to keep ourselves safe online.

**Data Handling:** Investigating weather: Researching and storing data using spreadsheets, designing a weather station which gathers and records data and learning how weather forecasts are made. Children use tablets or digital cameras to present a weather forecast.

## **RE**

**Judaism-** We will be looking at Passover and understanding how important it is for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do.

**Christianity** – Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?