

Marlcliffe Primary School

YEAR: 3/4

Curriculum plan for Spring term

Our homework menu will be handed out to the children and will also be available on the Y3/4 section of the school website. Spellings will be tested the week after they have been given out, and homework will be expected weekly. Y4 children will also complete weekly activities from their times tables workbook (they don't need to complete a separate maths homework).

Communication, language & literacy

Our literacy work will, as usual, be tied in with our topic work, which for the first half term will be Explorers. We will use William Grill's book *Shackleton's Journey* as a stimulus for writing various texts linked to the Antarctic, including letters replying to a job advertisement, eyewitness reports of dramatic events, non-chronological reports and diary entries in the form of a ship's log. We will continue to teach weekly spelling patterns according to the National Curriculum's guidance, and provide children with weekly personalised spelling lists based on corrections in their work.

Mathematical development

The children will continue to do regular mental and oral work based around the multiplication and division facts pertinent to their year group (3, 4 & 8 for Y3s, all facts up to 12x12 for Y4s). They will apply their knowledge of these facts to calculations involving larger numbers, for example using $3 \times 5 = 15$ to calculate 3×50 , and will explore written methods for multiplying or dividing larger numbers by a single digit. The children will go on to look at using metric measures in the calculation of length, perimeter and area, before carrying out work on fractions and decimals. This work will build on the children's existing knowledge of place value, multiplying and dividing by 10 or 100, and the multiplication facts they know.

History, Geography and Science

In **science**, we will look at 'Fantastic Forces and Marvellous Magnets'. Children will look at forces as pushes and pulls, and investigate the effects of friction. They will use the properties of magnets to create compasses and to design simple toys. In **history** and **geography**, our topic will be Explorers. We will look at the lives and achievements of famous explorers such as Columbus, Drake and Ranulph Fiennes, what and where they explored, when they explored those places, and the impact their discoveries had. We will look at various geographical aspects of their lives, such as the location of the poles, the equator and Everest, the names, locations and shapes of the continents and the UK's location relative to these. We will use a range of maps, thinking about how the information is presented differently on each.

Other subjects

In **computing**, we will use Google Earth and Google Explorer to increase our understanding of the world's geography, forming a link to our Explorers topic. We will think about how apps and software are used differently depending on the device, and select software that will present the information we find in an effective way. In **art and design technology**, we will explore the work of artists who have portrayed the Antarctic. We will experiment with different media (pencil crayon, watercolour and pastel) to create different effects, before creating our own artwork based on the book 'Shackleton's Journey', which we will be using in literacy. During the second half of the term, we will use papier mache to make scale models of Elephant Island, which features in the book.