

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year! We hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer break.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning families, and a very special welcome to the children and parents transitioning from Toucans into Peacocks Class! Moving into Key Stage 2 is an exciting milestone, and we are so looking forward to supporting your children as they grow in independence, confidence, and curiosity.

Below is a guide to our learning and routines for the term ahead. As always, if you have any questions or just want to say hello, please don't hesitate to speak to us. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support - Ms MacCormack and Mrs Patterson.

Our Learning This Term

English: We start the term with a focus on "Take One Book" based on *The Tree and the River*, before transitioning into writing to entertain with narrative writing based on *Mini Rabbit* and poetry inspired by *The Magic Box*. After half term, the children will explore fables and learn to write non-chronological reports. Discrete handwriting and spelling teaching will take place daily, as well as whole-class guided reading and weekly reading fluency small groups.

Maths: In the first half of the term, our main focus will be on adding and subtracting across 10, numbers to 1000, and manipulating the additive relationship to secure calculation. After half term, we will move on to column addition, column subtraction, and mastering the 2, 4, and 8 times tables. There will also continue to be daily multiplication tables and maths fluency lessons.

Science: Before half term, the children will dive into **Living in Environments**, where they will identify a variety of habitats, group and classify organisms/animals according to their characteristics, use classification keys, identify British plants, and explore human impacts on environments. After half term, we will study **States of Matter** comparing solids, liquids, and gases, observing how materials change state through heating and cooling, researching temperatures in degrees Celsius (180°C), and understanding evaporation, condensation, and the water cycle.

Geography: We will be answering the big question: **Who lives in Antarctica?** Children will explore what climate is, locate Antarctica, discover who lives there, learn about Ernest Shackleton, and even plan and evaluate their own expedition around the school.

History: Our history topic is centered around the question: **Would you prefer to live in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?** Children will investigate how prehistoric humans lived, what Skara Brae tells us about the Stone Age, the impact of bronze, how trade changed lives in the Iron Age, and compare changes across these prehistoric eras.

Computing: In the first half of the term, children will explore **Animation**, learning about onion skinning, storyboarding, and narrative in animation. After half term, we will cover **Logo**, where they will learn to draw letters, change line color/thickness, use repeat commands, and create procedures. We will wrap up the term by introducing **Branching Databases**, learning how to understand, build, and debug them.

PE: Our PE sessions will be on **Tuesday** afternoons and **Thursday** mornings. This term, the children will be learning Hockey in the first half of the term and Netball in the second half. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.

Art: Storytelling through Drawing – Children will explore how to sequence imagery to tell stories, using line, shape, colour, and text to create characterful drawings on paper. After studying the work of an illustrator and a graphic novelist, they will apply these skills to design either a literature-inspired accordion book or a comic strip.

DT: After half term, our DT sessions will focus on **Mechanisms: levers and linkages**. Children will explore mechanical systems to design, make, and evaluate a product with moving parts, such as a greetings card or storyboard. Using annotated sketches and prototypes, they will develop their ideas and learn to select and use tools safely to cut, join, and finish paper and card.

RE: Before half term, our question is **Where do our morals come from?** Children will explore beliefs about right and wrong, how people remember rules, and how religious guidance is used (including in Judaism, Christianity, and Buddhism). After half term, we ask **Is scripture central to religion?**, exploring the role of written texts and scripture in Buddhism, Islam, and other world religions.

PSHE: In the first half of the term, we will focus on managing emotions, building our "**emotions toolkit**," managing conflict, and learning how to handle strong feelings. In the second half of the term, our focus shifts to healthy relationships, exploring family life, celebrating differences in our communities, and learning how to cope with challenges and support one another.

Music: Year 3 will begin to learn the **violin** on Tuesday afternoons, while Year 4 will begin **recorder** lessons. Throughout these sessions, the children will develop their skills in reading music notation and playing together as an ensemble, focusing on rhythm, pitch, and listening to one another to create a cohesive group performance.

MFL (French): Our French curriculum will cover **Me and Others**. Children will explore singular 'être', regular adjectives, French vowels/verbs for the classroom, greetings, introductions, talking about what they and their friends are like, and seasonal French activities.

Children will need:

- their name on all items of their school uniform and PE kit.
- to bring a water bottle to school every day.
- to bring their reading book and reading record book into school every day.

Homework:

- Spellings and Times Tables:** Tested weekly, these should be practiced throughout the week using Spell Shed and TT Rockstars.
- **Times Tables:** Each child has an individual TT Rockstars account where they work through tables personalized to their current knowledge. It is highly beneficial to use this platform regularly, as it progressively adapts to challenge them at their own pace. Mastering these tables is essential for building a strong mathematical foundation, boosting your child's confidence, and reducing maths anxiety—ultimately helping them progress smoothly through complex maths and real-world tasks.
 - **Spellings:** Spelling practice can be completed online via Spell Shed or written down. Homework folders are updated at the start of each week with an additional spelling sheet to complete, which helps children learn their weekly words. Please make sure your child brings their homework folder into school each Monday.
 - **Reading:** Reading at home with your child throughout the week is vital to build their reading fluency and stamina. Children can read to themselves or aloud and then discuss the text with you to develop crucial comprehension skills. They can select an age-appropriate book from the library or bring one from home. Reading record books should be signed and brought to school daily. (Some children in fluency reading groups will also bring home an additional fluency text or phonics book on Friday.