

# Hare Class Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

**Happy New Year!** I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and were able to spend quality time together. We would like to thank you all for the very generous Christmas gifts we received.

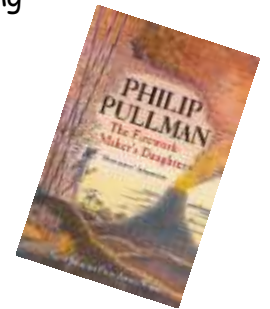


This is going to be another fun-filled and busy term of creative learning with the added extra excitement of the Year 3/4 production of Hoodwinked! It's therefore wonderful to see the children coming back into school well rested, full of positivity and raring to go!

**English** We begin the term by learning about and comparing New Year traditions, both here in the UK and those in China, through a poetry unit. Children will explore a range of language techniques and writing

structures.

This unit leads us nicely into our study of Phillip Pullman's beautiful fairy-tale, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', where we will focus on developing our descriptive writing of both character and setting, whilst also consolidating previous grammar and punctuation learning. Later on in the term, we will go on to study 'Explanatory texts' and 'Information texts' linked to our topic work.



### **How you can help your child:**

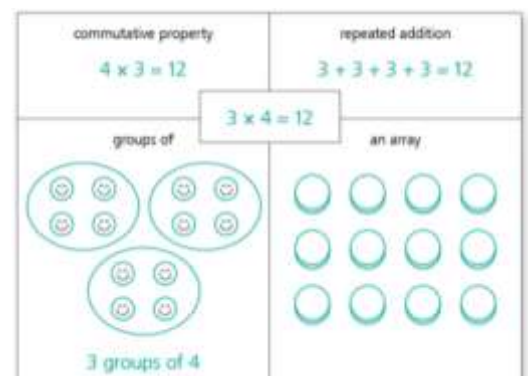
- \* Please try to read regularly with your child, if possible at least 4x per week. Reading aloud helps them to decompose new words and understand their meaning. Therefore developing your child's vocabulary. Please sign their planner to help us keep a record of their reading.
- \* Talk about the books they are reading: What was their favourite bit? Did they have a favourite character? What do they think will happen next? Lots of discussion helps develop children's language and understanding of the text.



**Maths** In Maths we will continue to develop our numerical understanding. In our devoted mental math sessions, the children will be working towards increasing and improving their calculation strategies for all four functions in a variety of contexts, including money and measure. In general lessons we shall be focussing on learning our time-tables and using written methods for both multiplication and division. Children in Year 3 are expected to know their 10x, 5x, 2x, 3x, 4x and 8x tables off by heart, along with the related division facts.

### **How you can help your child:**

- \* Rehearse times table facts and related division facts - e.g. use repeated addition, arrays, chanting or songs.
- \* Regular practise on TT Rock stars to support quick recall of facts.
- \* Regular opportunities of practise available through Doodle Maths.



Later on in the term our learning will focus upon fractions and statistics.



**Topic** Much of our learning will focus around our new topic 'Extreme Earth'. We hope the children will be geographically inspired as they learn about volcanoes and where they are found around the world. Children will begin to understand why volcanoes erupt and the impact an eruption has on the environment. Through this topic we will explore a whole range of creative topic-based learning across all the primary subject areas.

**Art & DT** The children will use topic work as inspiration for their artwork this term. We will explore the works of British artist, Nick Roland, and develop our own knowledge and understanding of colour through painting. Later on in the term, we will study the work of Japanese artist and print maker Hokusai and then recreate famous images using a variety of media, including a 3D model. Children will develop their ideas through the use of their sketchbooks.



**Science** We will begin this term by learning about light, reflections and shadows - making links to New Year festivals and celebrations.

We will then move onto studying rocks and fossils. The children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and they will explore the properties of soil. Children will continue to develop their scientific enquiry skills, making observations, predictions and conclusions.



**Religious Education** In RE, the children will discuss the question: What do Jewish people believe about God, the Covenant and Torah? We shall explore stories from the Old Testament and use these to help deepen our understanding of the Covenant. We will also learn about the Torah and its importance to Jews.

**Physical Education** PE will take place on Monday afternoons. PLEASE make sure your child has their FULL PE kit in school at all times. PE is a vital part of the curriculum and we would hate for the children to miss out if they do not have the correct kit with them.

**Home Learning** As in the previous term, each week your child will be given words to learn at home through an activity uploaded onto Google Classroom. The children will be tested on these, every Friday, during our focussed spelling lesson. Alongside spellings, the children will also be expected to access and complete learning activities through Doodle Maths and TT Rockstars. These set tasks will consolidate learning activities carried out in school that week, whilst also consolidating prior learning - keeping it fresh in the children's minds. Homework will be uploaded on a Friday and is due to be turned in on the following Thursday.

Please feel free to message me via Class Dojo if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. I am always happy to speak to parents at a convenient time. As always, I will endeavour to keep you updated with learning snapshots, photos and the children's progress through this porthole on a weekly basis.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Miss Holmes and Mrs Gordon

