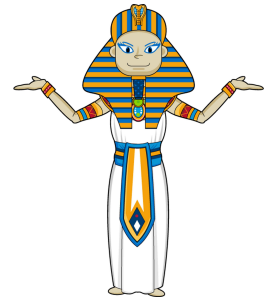




Lower Key Stage 2 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2025



Dear Parents and Children,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you have had a lovely Christmas break and are now ready to go in 2025!

Our topic this term is Tomb Raiders. Definitely one of our favourites! We will be learning about the wonderful and exciting world of the Ancient Egyptians & we will also be finding out about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. As part of this topic, we have arranged for an Egyptian Workshop, which will take place in school. After half term, each class will also be showcasing their talents and sharing what they have learnt with you all. Full details of this topic can be found on our school website.

Reading

Reading is a key skill. It impacts on all areas of the curriculum. Confident & fluent readers are usually confident & fluent writers. It improves concentration, focus and of course, knowledge. We would like you to hear your children read at home as much as you can, ideally every day, and record this in the reading record. The children can record in the reading records too. We have noticed that some children are lacking in reading stamina - regular reading at home is an effective way to improve this. In addition, whilst many of the children are becoming more fluent & independent readers, the development of their comprehension is key. It is fantastic that lots of the children are reading to themselves, but it is also crucial that adults are asking them questions about their reading too, to ensure that they are understanding.

PE

Please ensure that all the children have a full, named PE kit in school **AT ALL TIMES**. Last term, we had a lot of pupils who did not have a kit, or who had an incomplete kit or a kit that was too small. Unfortunately we do not have spare kits. If they do a sports club after school, they will need to bring their kit back into school on the following day. This is the "cold term" so they will also need tracksuits. Please note that it is not appropriate for the children to do PE in their regular school jumpers - if they get wet, they have nothing to change back into. All of the children will have PE with Mr Marks on Thursdays and then they will have one further PE lesson during the week too.

School Uniform

Just a quick note to remind parents that our school uniform policy states that pupils should wear plain black shoes (not black trainers) to school as part of their school uniform. These should be entirely black please.

Times Tables

As I am sure that you're aware, all of the children now have logins for Times Tables Rockstars. It is good to see lots of children logging in regularly to this program, and it will certainly help them with their quick tables recall.

Spellings

All of the children will continue to receive weekly spelling homework, set on a Monday via Ed Shed. We introduce these words in class at the start of the week and they form the basis of our spelling lessons across the week. As with the tables, little and often is best. We recommend at least 3x per week; it is important that they practise the words at home to reinforce what they have learnt in class.

Polite Request

The children all need a named water bottle at school, and we are pleased that the majority of children do bring in bottles. However, could we please ask that the water bottles are of a sensible size, and not too expensive. Some of the bottles are very large, and we don't have huge amounts of storage space in our classes. Thank you.

Contacting Staff

If there is anything that you need to discuss, please don't hesitate to speak to us. The quickest & best way to get a message to the staff is through the school office, via their email or phone. You can also email the Y3/4 team directly on year34@allsaintsprimaryschoolmaldon.co.uk but please be aware that this email will not be checked out of school hours or whilst we are teaching.

Timings

Please ensure that the children are in school in good time. We complete the register at 8.45am so that we can start our day promptly, therefore they should be in class by then. Children who arrive after 8.45am must go to the office first, rather than coming in through classroom doors. Children should be collected at 3.15pm. Please ensure that you are collecting at this time as we do have a number of pupils who are being collected later; this has implications for staff who often have meetings & commitments after the children have gone home.

Thank you from all the Year 3/4 team,