

# Drifffield Junior School



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Dear Parents/Carers

## Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2019

### Year 3

The summer term rounds off an extremely busy year. Our history topic is 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. Linked to this topic, we have our Stone Age day trip to Murton Park planned, which each class will attend (please see website or app for a reminder of the dates if required).

In English, we will be learning how to write adventure and mystery stories. Later on in the term, we will also be writing an explanation text about seed dispersal in plants. Our maths work will focus on money time. We will also be learning about fractions as well as shape and angle work.

In art lessons, we will continue to produce mosaics inspired by the work of Gaudi and later in the term the children will create coil pots.

In PE, the children will be taught the skills necessary to play tennis, rounders and cricket, whilst also increasing their competency in athletics. We are already looking forward to seeing these newfound athletic skills in action on sports day! The children will also participate in ten swimming sessions at Drifffield Sports Centre (further details to follow).

We are extremely proud of how the Year 3s continue to gain confidence and establish themselves at the Junior School. Thank you for your continued support with hearing them read, learning their tables and ensuring that maths homework is handed in on time.

Towards the end of the term we will be preparing the children for the move to year 4. Later on in the summer term, children will meet and spend some time with their new teacher. We will endeavour to make sure this transition takes place smoothly, as the one between the Infant and Junior schools did last year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or myself.

Mrs R Dixon  
Year 3 Co-ordinator



## **Year 4**

Summer term is going to be a very busy time for year 4 this year, as we look to build on the fantastic work and progress the children have already shown so far.

This term sees us start a completely new topic- “The circle of life”. We will be discovering biomes and animal habitats around the world, with a particular focus on Africa. Children will learn about the kind of animals in different environment, and how to classify different animals. We will also look at the dangers posed to habitats by human behaviour, and the impact this can have on wildlife. We will also take a journey through digestions in both humans and animals, with some exciting hands-on experiments. This will link in to on-going work about food chains in different environments

In English, we are looking at how to write for different purposes, and how different styles of writing can be used for different audiences. Each class will become experts on an endangered animal, and work to share the information about the challenges facing that animal with a wider audience. We will also be looking at a range of writing from different cultures to broaden our reading horizons.

Children will continue to develop their mathematics abilities across a wide range of areas. Fractions and decimals are to be explored in detail, along with on-going refinement of calculation methods and their application to problem type questions. The popular times table challenge and TT rockstar battles will continue, so any opportunity at home to practise these would be greatly beneficial.

Last, but definitely not least, PE activities are changing for the summer months. We are very excited to be improving our swimming skills during the summer term: please ensure children bring their swimming kit in every Monday and Wednesday. With sports day on the horizon, we shall also be focusing on athletics disciplines, along with striking and fielding games.

Thank you for all the support offered over the year thus far by your fantastic attendance at our Easter assembly. The next show will be a drumming extravaganza involving all of our pupils, showcasing the musical talents nurtured all year long by the fantastically talented Mr Pymm – date to follow.

Mr C Tarrant  
Year 4 Co-ordinator

## **Year 5**

In the first half of this term, Year 5 will embark on a mission to the Moon. To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landings, all science, history, reading, writing, art and some PE will focus around space and the moon. Children will read a number of biographies about famous astronauts before writing their own biography of a famous astronaut.

The class novel will be the Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge which has been short listed for several children’s literature awards and tells the story of Jamie and his father who is an astronaut on the International Space Station. From this children will then look at writing their own space adventure.

In art, children will study and emulate the work of space artist, Peter Thorpe. In science, the children will learn about orbits, the moon’s place in space as well as how day and night occur.

The children will be visited by a professor of astrophysics who will give the children a fascinating insight into life as an astronaut on board the ISS. He will also bring a Space Dome which will further develop the children's understanding of space. Finally, in PE children will look at the training routine of an astronaut.

The second half of the summer term will be a geography focus and the children will embark on a forest hunt where they will learn about forests and rivers. At the beginning of the second half term, each class will visit Dalby Forest to investigate rivers. The practical field work undertaken at Dalby Forest is essential for the subsequent lessons which will follow in class as well as always proving to be a popular and memory making day. Further details about this trip will be sent out soon.

In games, we will be concentrating on cricket and rounders. Please can you ensure that your child has the correct outdoor kit, clearly named, in school on the appropriate days:

5B – Wednesday & Thursday

5By – Monday & Wednesday

5I – Monday & Thursday

5N – Wednesday & Thursday

5W – Monday & Thursday

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Sports Day on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The times tables challenge this half term test the speed of recall of the 8s and 12s while the final half term will consolidate knowledge of all the times tables. Please support learning of these important facts anyway you can – chanting in the car, while washing up or even counting the steps you walk in multiples – anything will help!

Reading at home continues to be an important focus so please remember to sign your child's planner when you hear them read – don't forget the question stems in the front of the planner.

Yet another busy term ahead – let's hope the sun shines!

Mrs J Broadbent  
Year 5 Co-ordinator

## **Year 6**

This is an incredibly busy term in year 6. The children have been working very hard all year to prepare themselves for the national end of KS2 tests in maths, reading and grammar and spelling. The tests commence on 13<sup>th</sup> May and conclude on 16<sup>th</sup> May. It is vital that all pupils attend every day so we ask parents to avoid arranging appointments during school time this week. The children will do their best when rested, refreshed and relaxed so please make sure they have plenty of early nights and a good breakfast every morning. Although teachers try to ensure that children do not get too worried about their tests, occasionally some children do become anxious. Please contact your child's class teacher if this is a concern.

The rest of the summer term will be action packed with lots of exciting things to look forward to. This will include a visit to a Food and Farming day at Driffeld Show ground on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to learn about the role of science and technology in producing our food. Further information

about this visit will follow shortly.

Although SAT tests will shortly be over, it is important that children maintain the high standards they have achieved in English and maths in readiness for their move to senior school. Children will be taking part in mini-projects like researching, designing, making and selling a fair trade snack that gives them the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned. We will take advantage of the summer weather when possible so, although we have set days for PE, we advise children to bring in their PE kit on a Monday and leave it all week.

As this is their last term at Driffield Junior School, we will start to help the children to prepare for their move to secondary school. Children will take part in numerous transition activities including a transition day to the senior school will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Year 6 will say an official goodbye to the junior school in an assembly held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00 to which parents are invited to attend. This will be followed in the evening with a special year 6 leavers disco.

Mrs H Mudd  
Year 6 Co-ordinator