

Year 3/4 Autumn 1 : The Blue Abyss

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you've all had a lovely summer holiday and are rested, recharged and ready to go again!

Our first theme for this year is 'The Blue Abyss' which will focus on rivers and the ocean. To start the theme, we are excited to once again welcome the Explorer Dome team who will present an interactive workshop to each class.

We hope your child enjoys their first half term in Year 3/4 and have attached the following information so you can discuss the learning with your children.

Kind Regards,

The Year 3/4 team

Mr Todd, Miss Jones, Miss Hampton and Miss...?

English: Children will start the year in English writing narratives using expanded noun phrases and figurative language. We will then be moving on to write poems based on the book *A River* by Marc Martin before also exploring *Leon and the Place Inbetween* by Angela McAllister.

Maths: In Maths, we will be looking at Number and Place Value, before moving onto Addition and Subtraction. To finish, we will be looking at multiplication. Lots of the maths to start the year will involve concrete resources and pictorial models to support understanding and children will not yet be moving onto formal written methods.

Science: In Science, children will look at water being one of the 3 states of matter and investigate evaporation and condensation as part of the water cycle. We will also consider the food chains present in the ocean as well as exploring the effect on living things when environments change.

Geography: Children will explore the water cycle and its different stages: evaporation, convection, precipitation and collection. We will also learn about the physical processes at work in rivers: erosion, transportation and deposition.

DT: Children will explore moving picture books and experiment with different mechanisms, considering which is the most effective. Children will then design, make and evaluate their own picture book based on *A River* by Marc Martin.

Music: In music, we will create and perform our own arrangements of the River's Journey Song using our voices and percussion instruments.

All classes will also have RE, PE, PSHE, French, Spelling and Handwriting sessions.



PE Days:

Foxes: Monday and Thursday

Badgers: Monday and Thursday

Otters: Monday and Thursday

Please make sure your child's PE kit is labelled and in school every day. If your child cannot undertake PE for any reason, they should bring a note explaining why.

Library Days:

Foxes: Tuesday

Badgers: Wednesday

Otters: Wednesday



Year 3/4 Home Learning

Please ask your teacher if you need a new code for accessing Seesaw!

Spelling

These will be sent home every **Tuesday** and tested the **following Monday**.

There will be between 6-8 words that follow the rule we are looking at in class.

As part of the test, we will add two further words that follow this rule plus two words from a previous week's spelling home learning.

This will help us determine if the children have retained their previous spellings and are able to apply spelling rules.

Times Tables Rockstars

Regular practice will help your children become fluent Times Tables Rockstars. Times Tables are key for all year 3/4 students! See the back page of this leaflet for more!

At the end of year 4, all children in England now sit a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). On Times Table Rockstars, the Soundcheck mode is an excellent way of practising for this assessment.



SOUNDCHECK

Beat the clock

Early Morning Activities

Early morning activities begin at 8:40am and focus on the key skills of reading, spellings, maths and grammar. Please ensure you are here on time to take part!

Maths and English

Maths and English home learning will be set via Seesaw on alternate Fridays with the expectation that the task will be completed by the following Wednesday.

The tasks that are will be in line with what the children have been learning that week in school, or maybe recapping topics learnt earlier in the year.

Reading

We love reading and expect the children to be enjoying a book at least 5 times a week at home. Please can **three** of these times be reading aloud to an adult.

We also recommend for you to read to your child to model excellent reading skills and to share audio books together as well. As children get more confident, they may want to read independently too. The most important thing is to talk about what has been read.

Please see below for a link to good questions to ask your child when reading together.

Helping at Home

Below are some ideas of what you can do with your child over the next half term to support the learning at school

Practise:

Spelling tests will take place every Monday. Please support your child by discussing the current week's spelling rules with them and the spellings they are learning.

Here is a list of the 100 words that children in England are expected to be able to spell by the end of year 3/4.

https://cdn.oxfordowl.co.uk/2019/08/29/13/54/08/76f1443d-9b6d-4030-be0d-25fcfef01438/SpellingWordList_Y3-4.pdf

Please aim for at least 3 sessions on TTRS per week. Please speak to your child's class teacher if your child has forgotten their logon details.

Talk and explore (Here are some example questions to generate discussion about what we will be doing at school. Some of these will not be covered at the beginning of the term):

- Which rivers have you seen nearby? Do you know where the river starts? Where it meets the sea?
- Which famous rivers have you heard of? Why are they famous? Where are they?
- What is the prey/predator for that animal?
- Why is the river eroding in that place?
- What mechanisms make something move?

Watch and Play

Watch the following video which we will use for a narrative write in English.
<https://www.literacyshed.com/something-fishy.html>

This BBC film is a useful tool to show pupils how the river journey changes as it moves from source to mouth. It can be used to describe what happens at each stage of the river journey and to look in detail at how the river changes over the course of that journey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK3bgjiEEk>

Can children follow Rivers from around the world from Source to Mouth on Google Maps?

Read

Please continue to read with your child at home and discuss the characters and the themes in the stories.

Please see a collection of

https://www.literacyshedblog.com/uploads/1/2/5/7/12572836/ks2_reading_vipers.pdf

Why are times tables useful?

Square and cube numbers

$3^2 = 3 \times 3 = 9$

$5^2 = 5 \times 5 = 25$

$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$

Factors and common factors

$3 \times 6 = 18$	$4 \times 8 = 32$	$3 \times 6 = 18$
$1 \times 3 \times 6$	$1 \times 4 \times 8$	$1 \times 3 \times 6$
$2 \times 1 \times 8$	$2 \times 2 \times 4$	$2 \times 1 \times 8$
$3 \times 1 \times 2$	$3 \times 1 \times 6$	$3 \times 1 \times 2$
4×9	$4 \times 1 \times 2$	4×9
6×6	6×8	6×6

Calculating volume

Volume = $5 \times 3 \times 2$

Using algebraic rules

Rule: $5n - 4$

1st term: $5 \times 1 - 4 = 1$

2nd term: $5 \times 2 - 4 = 6$

3rd term: $5 \times 3 - 4 = 11$

4th term: $5 \times 4 - 4 = 16$

5th term: $5 \times 5 - 4 = 21$

Multiples and common multiples

Multiples of 3: 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 21, 24

Multiples of 4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32

Short and long division

$$\begin{array}{r} 156 \\ 4 \overline{) 625} \\ \underline{4} \\ 22 \\ \underline{20} \\ 25 \\ \underline{20} \\ 50 \\ \underline{40} \\ 100 \\ \underline{80} \\ 200 \\ \underline{160} \\ 400 \\ \underline{400} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

Short and long multiplication

$$\begin{array}{r} 853 \\ \times 32 \\ \hline 1706 \\ 1656 \\ \hline 27296 \end{array}$$

Area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms

$(b \times h) \div 2$

Area = 36cm^2

Ordering and comparing fractions

$\frac{2}{3} \times 4 = \frac{8}{3}$

$\frac{3}{4} \times 3 = \frac{9}{4}$

Simplifying fractions

$\frac{9}{15} \div 3 = \frac{3}{5}$

Converting between mixed and improper fractions

$1\frac{3}{4} = \frac{7}{4}$

Finding prime factors

52

2, 13, 2

Finding a fraction or percentage of a number

$\frac{3}{4}$ of 48

$48 \div 4 = 12$

dividing by 4 finds one quarter.

$12 \times 3 = 36$

multiplying by 3 finds 3 quarters

Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions

$\frac{7}{4} + \frac{11}{8} = \frac{14}{8} + \frac{11}{8} = \frac{25}{8}$

$\frac{25}{8} = 3\frac{1}{8}$

Identifying prime and composite numbers

A prime number is a whole number greater than 1 with no divisors except 1 and itself.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Calculating ratio

A prize is shared in a ratio of 3 : 4 between Jamie and Dan. If Jamie gets £21, how much will Dan get?

Jamie : Dan

3 : 4

21 : 28

$\times 7$

Science
Investigate condensation at home:

- Cook some pasta
- Blow in your freezer
- Take a hot shower
- Breathe on a mirror

What do you notice?

Geography/English

Go for a lovely walk by the river.


What do you see? Can you see the current flowing?
Can you see any deposition and erosion?

Find somewhere quiet by the river and think about your senses – what can you hear? What can you see?
What can you smell?

Can you generate any similes and metaphors to describe the river that you might use in your poetry at school?

Year 3/4 – Blue Abyss

Ideas for Home Learning to Further Support Your Child



French
Watch the following video as a recap:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woqBQG7LG8s>

Can you count objects at home in French?

Music
Practise keeping to a beat!

Have a go at this body percussion activity:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92gf8dAlhUw>

Science
Create a model of the water cycle – what inventive ways could you manage to do it?

DT
Choose one of your favourite picture books from home.
Could you make a moving page for it?