



Squirrels Newsletter

Dear Parents and Children,
 Welcome to Squirrel Class! After a relaxing summer holiday, I hope you are all ready for the start of the school year. This is the first time that Squirrel Class has been all Year 3 (and not a mixed age class) so this is a very exciting step forward for our school. Key Stage 2 is now made up of two Year classes (Squirrel and Deer) and two Year 4 classes (Skylark and Lapwing).

The half termly newsletters sent throughout the year aim to provide you with some useful information about the half term ahead and I will also share and celebrate our learning from the previous half term. There is also a topic overview of what we are learning this half term in Year 3. If there is anything else you need clarifying then please do not hesitate in contacting me through the school office. I look forward to working with you all over the year ahead. The first opportunity for us to meet in person is at our **Coffee Morning on Monday 18th September at 9am** and I hope many of you will be able to attend. A copy of the information shared will be sent home if you aren't able to join us.

Best wishes, Katharine McMeekan



Times Tables The children will be continuing their learning about times tables this year. They are encouraged and supported to develop a rapid recall of the times table number facts, as this helps them use their knowledge in Maths to solve calculations and problems. They will be assessed on a particular multiplication table each week, they will be asked to practise learning these number facts at home. The children will build up gradually to be able to answer the questions within about 10 seconds to encourage this speed. To help the children, they will be given details to log on to 'Times Tables Rockstars'. If you could please encourage the children to use Times Tables Rockstars at home then that would be fantastic. The logins will be stuck in the front of their planner.



Spellings Spelling is an integral part of writing, so your help would be appreciated in encouraging your child to regularly learn the spellings set, to enable them to use them in their writing. The children will be set spellings each week given to them on a Friday and they will be assessed on them the following Friday. You will also receive a copy of the on-going key word list for Year 3 and Year 4 children. It would be wonderful if the children could learn these words alongside their weekly spellings so that they will have a solid grasp of how to spell them by end of Year 4.

Classroom Organisation Squirrel Class is a Year 3 class, and I teach the class every day except for a Monday afternoon when Mrs Mingoia and Mr Burnett will teach the class for two lessons (Mrs Mingoia will teach Spanish and Mr Burnett will teach Computing). Our class will also be supported by Mrs Francisco throughout the week, particularly for English. Mrs Francisco will also open the East Stairs door that the children enter school through each morning.

BAGS: Children can bring in their bags containing their planners and reading books and leave them in the cloakroom. They will also need a named water bottle every day which will be brought home at the end of the day to be washed and refilled.

Reading The children read individually on a regular basis (we aim for at least once a week) and it is also important that they read on a daily basis at home. Reading books, which have been chosen by the children, will be sent home every night, to be returned the following day, whether the book is finished or not. Planners will be checked regularly, with children being encouraged to record the pages they have read in their own reading planner.



Homework Homework will be set in their homework books on a Friday. The children will bring this home and should return it to school by the following Tuesday. The homework will be a range of activities from different curriculum areas throughout the year. The activities will be set to support learning in class and will be matched to the children's ability.

PE Our PE lessons are scheduled to be on a Wednesday and a Friday. The children are asked to bring their PE kits to school on these days to be changed before the lessons. Wednesday's session will be indoors and school PE kit will be worn. Our Friday sessions will be outdoors, weather conditions permitting. It can get quite chilly outside so extra layers like sweatshirt, hoodies and joggers/leggings are useful to keep in their PE bags



Twitter / X The X (formerly Twitter) account for our class has on-going posts of what the children are doing in our class throughout the year and it is a brilliant platform for you to follow activities and progress of the children. Please follow us if you can. We are [@SquirrelsHFS](https://twitter.com/SquirrelsHFS).