

Year 3/4 newsletter

**Term 1
Autumn
2009**

What an absolutely brilliant start we have had to the new school year. The Year 4 children (and our wonderful Year 6 buddies) have helped all our Year 3's to feel welcome and part of CCJ.

We hope you have all had the chance to come and see our 'Circus' themed shared area. Watch this space for details of our forthcoming Circus performance to parents!

Topic



As we are sure you know, our topic is called 'The Circus'. Rather than studying a history or geography topic, we decided that we would focus on communication and language this term, and the

theme 'Circus' fits in perfectly!

We will be working together in groups to create performances in drama, music and PE. Our art and DT will be based around circus pictures and paintings and we will even be linking in with French!

If you have any circus books or artefacts to share with the class, please see your teacher.

Maths

This term, we will all be revising our counting skills by counting on and back in different step sizes.

We will be looking at place value of numbers to 1000 (yr 3) and 10000 (yr 4).

Everyone will be practicing adding and subtracting pairs of 2-digit numbers using a number line or in their heads.

We will then move on to some problem solving activities and learning about the properties of different shapes.

To help at home, please practice counting forwards and back in different step sizes and practice quick addition and subtraction of numbers to 100.



Reading

Each week we work with your child in a small group during guided reading or writing sessions. These sessions are spent reading, responding and interpreting texts that may link to the literacy or topic unit.

Every child now has a reading book which should come home every night.

We would like your support in regularly hearing your child read their coloured sticker or free reading book and add comments on their progress in their reading record.

We would really appreciate any parental help in hearing children read. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are able to do this.

Literacy

This term our literacy units will all be linked to our topic. We started off with VCOP to improve our writing, and now we are working on writing stories about a circus adventure.

We will be using drama to explore some issues surrounding animals at the circus and will be learning some debating skills.

Our next writing unit will be to write an information text about the circus and finally we will be looking at using poetry to describe a scene.

Curricular targets

Your child will be set a personal target for literacy and maths over the next few weeks. We will stick these targets on their home learning books so that you know what we are focussing on.

Science

Our science theme this term is 'Habitats'. We will be looking at different animals and insects and deciding why they live in a particular habitat. We will be linking this with our topic by looking at different circus animals and where they live around the world.

Our investigative focus this term will be on planning a fair test.



ICT

- In Year 3 we will be improving our word-processing skills by learning how to change the size, font, colour and position of our typed words.
- In Year 4 we will be learning how to change the appearance of text and pictures for different audiences.



P.E.

This term we will be playing football or tag rugby with Miss Fry or Mr Garrett.

Our indoor PE is dance and gymnastics based around our circus theme. We will also be learning how to do some simple circus tricks!



French

In French we will be studying 'Le Carnaval des animaux' which will be about animals and their habitats, circus animals in particular.

This links perfectly to our topic and our science.



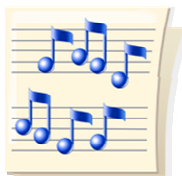
Art/DT

We will be looking at different circus paintings and learning new techniques for painting and colour mixing.



Music

As usual, singing will play an important part in our music lessons this term. We will also be using different circus and carnival music as inspiration for creating our own pieces of music using different instruments.



How you can help at home

- Ask your child about what they have been learning and achieving in school.
- Read with your child frequently
- Encourage them to practice their fine motor skills by drawing, colouring in and practising their handwriting.
- Support and encourage your child with their homework. Homework is given out on a Friday and is due in the following Wednesday.
- Practice times tables, counting and number bonds with your children.

From the Yr 3/4 team.....