



HARES NEWSLETTER

YRS 3 & 4 | AUTUMN 1



I hope you've all had a fabulous summer holiday – full of sunshine, laughter, and plenty of time to recharge. It's lovely to have the children back in school, and we're really excited about the adventures ahead this half term.

We're starting the year with a special Values Week, where in Hares class, we'll be focusing on our school value for this half term: Generosity. The children will be exploring what generosity looks like in everyday life, and we'll also be linking our learning to the Bible story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 – a wonderful reminder of how even the smallest acts of giving can make a big difference.

Our school vision, "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16), will be at the heart of everything we do. We can't wait to see the many ways the children will shine brightly this term – through their kindness, curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm.

It's going to be an action-packed Autumn half term with lots of exciting opportunities for the children to learn, grow, and have fun together. And if you haven't already, do pop in to take a look at the fantastic new classroom space that's been prepared for our Year 3 and 4 children – it's looking superb!

Here's to a wonderful start to the year!

Memory Verses

Each class also has a main memory verse that underpins everything we do: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). This verse reminds us all to live out our values and shine brightly through kindness, generosity, and good deeds. Alongside this, each half term we will learn a specific memory verse to help us reflect more deeply on our faith. For this half term, our verse is from 1 Corinthians 10:13: "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." We'll be learning these verses together and thinking about what they mean in our daily lives.

Our Class Topic

Our class topic for Autumn 1 is "Would you prefer to live in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?" As we learn how people used their skills and creativity to shape their communities, we'll be linking this to our memory verse, "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16). Just as people in history shone their light by sharing discoveries and ideas, we'll be thinking about how we can shine today through kindness, generosity, and using our gifts well.



"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

English Reading

Each week, children will take part in VIPERS reading activities (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Sequencing/Summarising). Using class books and texts linked to other subjects, VIPERS makes reading fun while building key skills!

Alongside this, children will enjoy reading independently and as a whole class, helping to nurture a real love of books and stories.



English Writing

Term	Autumn 1	
Text, author	The First Drawing - Mordicai Gerstein (Year 3)	
Main theme	Magic and Wonder	
Links and Themes	Cave paintings, cave man, cave people, stone-age, prehistory, prehistoric, creativity, discovery	
Writing Purposes	Writing to entertain (main) Writing to inform	
Main Outcome	Own historical narrative	
Other outcomes	Character description, diary entry, recount	
Length	10 sessions	Spelling Seeds
		Word list words Suffix - <i>ous</i>

Term	Autumn 1	
Text, author	Varmints - Helen Ward (Year 4)	
Main theme	Explanation of a life cycle	
Links and Themes	Environment, environmentalism, habitats, conservation, activism, film, life-cycles, hope	
Writing Purposes	Writing to inform (main) Writing to entertain Writing to persuade	
Main Outcome	Informative leaflet	
Other outcomes	Diary entry, instructions, letter, description, speech	
Length	16 sessions	Spelling Seeds
		Word list words Suffix - <i>ation</i> Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/

CURRICULUM

Curriculum areas at a glance!

English	Narrative, character description, diary entry, recount, Informative leaflet, instructions, letter, description, speech
Maths	Number and Place Value Addition and Subtraction
Topic	Would you prefer to live in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?
Science	Energy, Light & Shadows
RE	How might your worldview lead you to do hard things for good reasons?
PSHE	Families and Relationships
Music	Mamma Mia
PE	Dodgeball, handball, dance, basketball
Computing	Programming: Scratch
Art	Drawing: Developing drawing skills
DT	Pneumatic toys

Yr 3 Maths - Number and Place Value

Number and Place Value		Knowledge Organiser																																																																							
Key Vocabulary	3-Digit Numbers	10 and 100 More or Less																																																																							
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Yr 4 Maths - Number and Place Value

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Timetable

This half term, our days will stay busy and exciting with **daily Maths and English lessons**. We'll also explore lots of other fun subjects, including **History, Science, PSHE, RE, Computing, Art, and Music** (get your Abba moves out for Mamma Mia). PE will be on **Tuesday afternoons**, so get those PE kits ready. There will also be a dedicated lesson, each week, for mindfulness and meditation to help the children relax, focus, and reflect.

Homework

English

Learning spellings is super important - the yearly spellings for Years 3 & 4 are key to help your child grow as a confident reader and writer. For this half term, the yearly **spellings** to focus on, can be found at the end of the newsletter. Children will be **tested on these spellings over the next week few weeks**, before taking them home to practise, and again at the end of the half term. Those who show great progress will be rewarded with prizes! Your support in practising at home will make a big difference - and it's great fun too!

Reading

Reading at home is like giving your brain a workout! It helps children gain **confidence, fluency, and creativity**. Research shows that children who read regularly, do better across all subjects. Please encourage **daily reading** and remind your child to update their reading records each week - we love celebrating all the books they've enjoyed!

Maths

Times tables are the superheroes of maths - the quicker your child knows them, the faster and more confident they become in solving problems! Children in Years 3 and 4 are encouraged to practise regularly using **Times Tables Rockstars**. In Year 4, children will take the national **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** in the summer term, so practising little and often will make it a breeze.

Equipment

To keep everything organised, please make sure all jumpers, coats, and water bottles are **clearly named**. Small bags only, please, for the lockers.

Finally - Communication & Updates

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to share a great moment from home, please **contact me via Dojo**. I check messages regularly and will respond as quickly as possible. I'm really looking forward to getting to know your children (and of course you) better this term. Remember to keep an eye on **ParentMail** for all key dates, events, and important updates. Your support and communication help make this term a positive, fun, and successful experience for everyone.

Kindest of kind regards,

Miss Morys



Handy references

History Knowledge Organiser



History - Would you prefer to have lived in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?

AD (Anno Domini)*	The Latin for 'in the Year of the Lord', a term used to date the years after Jesus was born.
archaeology	Using remains to learn about the past.
barter*	To exchange goods without using money.
BC (Before Christ)*	A term used to date the years before Jesus was born.
hunter-gatherers	A group of people who move around hunting or collecting food.
settlement*	A place where people live together as a community.
trade*	The buying, selling and exchanging of objects and work.
tribe	A group of people with shared values and one leader.

Trade

Goods like bronze and copper were exchanged for other items. Trade between Britain and Europe increased during the Iron Age. To start with, bartering was used to exchange goods, but the arrival of the first coins ended this.

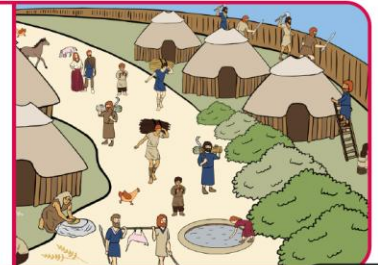


Settlements

In the Neolithic period, people started to live in groups together as communities. One example of this is Skara Brae.



By the Iron Age, people were living in community groups called tribes led by a chief or a king. These were often based around hill forts which were built to defend the tribe.

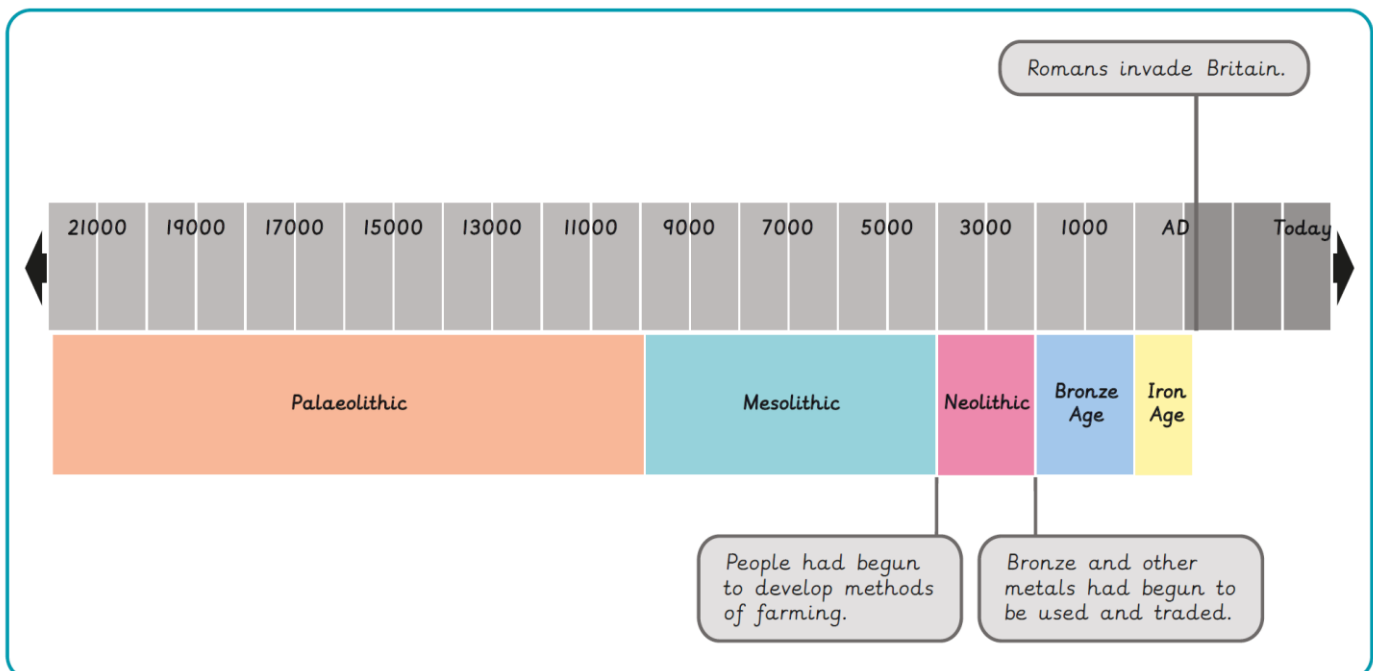


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History - Would you prefer to have lived in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age?



Key events



2

Science - Light and shadows

We need light to be able to see things.
Darkness is when there is no light.

A **light source** is something that gives out light. This is also known as **luminous**.

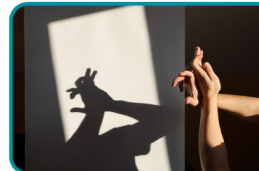


- **Bright lights** can damage the eyes.
- Never look directly at bright lights like the Sun.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses and a sunhat.

<p>transparent</p> <p>Lets most light through so little or no shadow forms.</p>	<p>translucent</p> <p>Lets some light through so a light shadow forms.</p>	<p>opaque</p> <p>Lets no light through so a shadow forms.</p>
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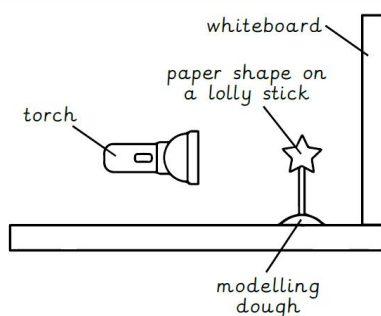
All surfaces **reflect** at least a little light where light bounces off them. Objects that are shiny and **reflective** let more light bounce off them.



Shadows form when the light from a light source is blocked by an **opaque** object.

Science - Light and shadows

Changing the position of the light source affects the size, shape and position of the shadow.

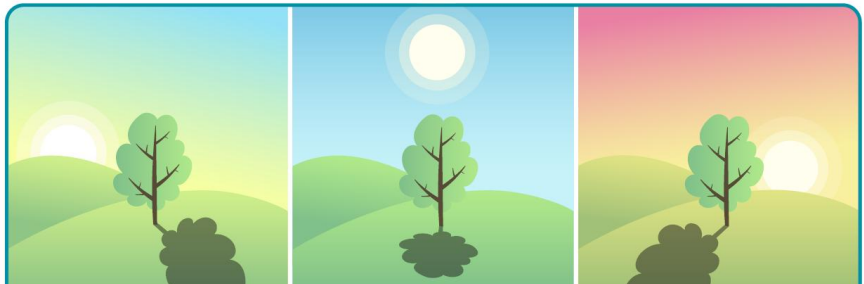


As the Sun changes position in the sky throughout the day, shadows will also change. This can be done in the classroom by moving a torch like the Sun in the sky.

The distance between the light source and an object changes the size of the shadow.

The closer the light source is to the object, the larger the shadow. This is because it blocks more light.

The further away the light source from the object, the smaller the shadow.



The shadow's position will change as the Sun rises in the East and sets in the West. The shadows get shorter as the Sun moves higher in the sky until midday and then get longer again as the Sun sets.

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spellings

accident	calendar	eight	guide	mention	possession	straight
accidentally	caught	eighth	heard	minute	possible	strange
actual	centre	enough	heart	natural	potatoes	strength
actually	century	exercise	height	naughty	pressure	suppose
address	certain	experience	history	notice	probably	surprise
although	circle	experiment	imagine	occasion	promise	therefore
answer	complete	extreme	important	occasionally	purpose	though
appear	consider	famous	increase	often	quarter	thought
arrive	continue	favourite	interest	opposite	question	through
believe	decide	February	island	ordinary	recent	various
bicycle	describe	forward	knowledge	particular	regular	weight
breath	different	forwards	learn	peculiar	reign	woman
breathe	difficult	fruit	length	perhaps	remember	women
build	disappear	grammar	library	popular	sentence	
busy	early	group	material	position	separate	
business	earth	guard	medicine	possess	special	

Let your light shine.....

