



HARE'S NEWSLETTER



Years 3 & 4 – Spring 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term and managed to squeeze in a little rest (and maybe a biscuit or two!). It's been so good to welcome the children back – the classroom feels alive again and we are ready to jump straight into Spring 2!

This is a short but mighty five-week half term as we head towards Easter, and we are determined to make every moment count.

Our Bible verse focus this half term is:

“He will be like a tree planted by streams of water...” (Psalm 1:3)

We're going to have lots of fun exploring this beautiful image together. What does it mean to be *planted*? What helps our roots grow strong? What keeps us flourishing? Think resilience, kindness, perseverance, courage – all the good stuff that helps us stand tall, even when the wind blows a little!

As we move closer to Easter, we'll also be thinking about growth, hope and new life – perfect themes for spring (and for busy Year 3 and 4 brains that are growing every single day).

We'll continue living out our school vision, *“Let your light shine”* (Matthew 5:16), and I cannot wait to see all the ways the children shine this half term – through their curiosity, their creativity, their bravery in learning something new, and their brilliant enthusiasm.

Short term. Big growth. Lots of shining.



English


This half term, our class text is *Frindleswyde* – a story full of adventure, imagination, and plenty to talk about! We're still going to continue using VIPERS, but our main focus will be **sentence superpowers** and **handwriting magic** to help the children write more neatly and confidently.

In **Love for Reading**, it will be all about **poems**! No writing, no rules – just reading, sharing, and enjoying the rhythm, rhyme, and fun of words.

Shatterly St Andrews Primary School



English Curriculum Map - Years 3 & 4 - SPRING 2

Term	Spring 2	
Texts author	<i>Frindleswyde</i> by Natalia & Lauren O'Hara	
Main theme	Darkness and Light	
Links and Themes	Winter, ice, frozen, magic, fairy tales, dilemmas, consequences	
Writing Purposes	To entertain To inform To persuade	
Main Outcome	Narrative sequel	
Other outcomes	Letters, voting slips, dialogue, poetry, birds-eye view descriptions, persuasive speeches (information texts).	
Length	5 weeks	
	<p><u>Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation</u> Develop understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions, adverbs or prepositions Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Use of inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech Fronted adverbials (for example, <u>Later</u> that day, I heard the bad news.) Use of commas after fronted adverbials Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (eg. the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair). 	

Curriculum areas at a glance!

English	<i>Frindleswyde</i> by Natalia and Lauren O'Hara Outcomes: Letters, voting slips, dialogue, poetry, birds-eye view descriptions, persuasive speeches, information text, narrative sequel.
Maths	Length & Perimeter, Fractions, Mass & Capacity.
Topic (Geography)	Why do people choose to live by Volcanoes?
Science	Animals, including humans: Digestive System
RE	Do you have to be part of a faith community to express an organised worldview? (2)
PSHE	Safety and the changing body (continued)
Music	Sounds Exploration
French	Playground games; Numbers and Toys (continued)
PE	Volleyball
Computing	Creating media- website design (continued)
DT	Textiles: Making a cushion

Homework and Online Learning

Homework is super important for helping your child shine at school, so thank you for supporting them at home!

Reading: Make sure your child is logging into Accelerated Reader each week to take their quizzes. You can even peek in and see how they're smashing their personalised targets.

Maths: Daily practice really helps! Year 3 will continue with Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS), and Year 4 will focus on TTRS as they get ready for their Times Tables Screening Check.

Maths - Yr 3 and Yr 4 - Next Main Focus Area

Recognising Fractions



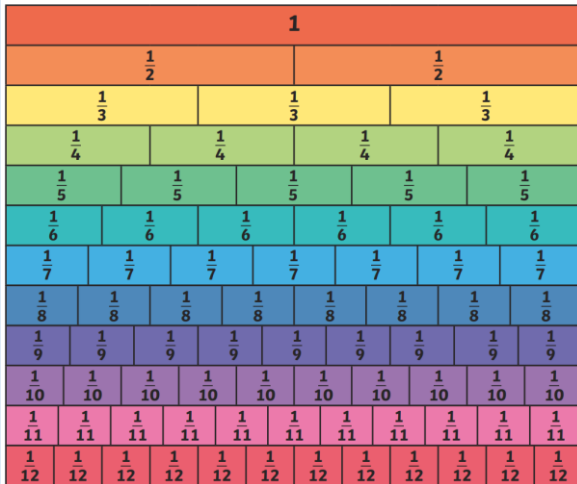
$\frac{3}{8}$

Numerator
How many equal parts of the whole are needed?

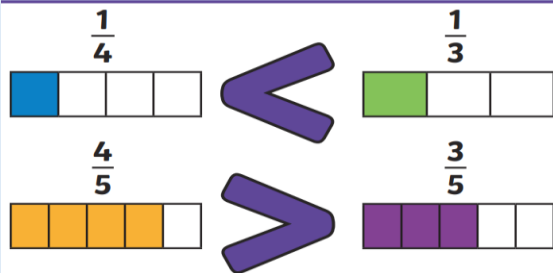
Denominator
How many equal parts are in the whole?

$\frac{3}{8}$ of the shape is shaded.

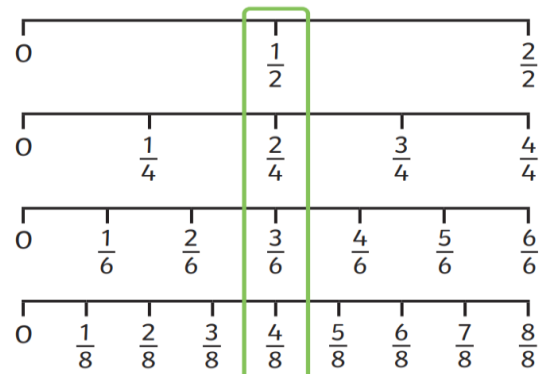
$\frac{5}{8}$ of the shape is **not** shaded.



Comparing Fractions

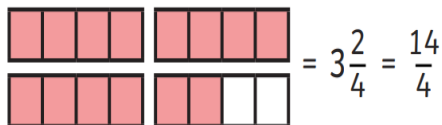


Equivalent Fractions



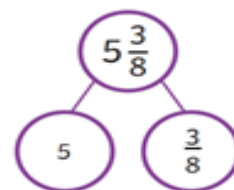
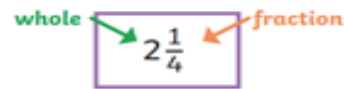
Improper Fractions

An improper fraction has a numerator which is greater than or equal to the denominator. $\frac{5}{3}$



Mixed Numbers

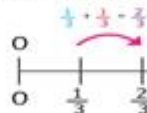
Mixed numbers contain a whole number and a fraction.



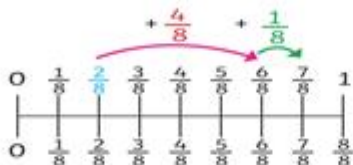
Adding Fractions

Fractions can be added when the denominators are the same.

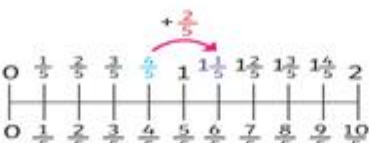
$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$



$$\frac{2}{8} + \frac{4}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$$



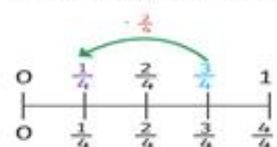
$$\frac{4}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{6}{5} \text{ or } 1\frac{1}{5}$$



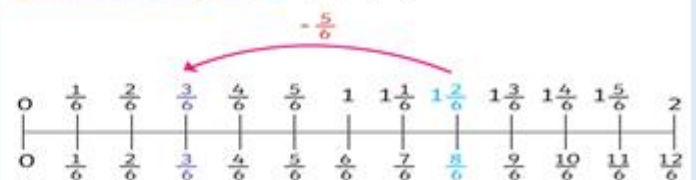
Subtracting fractions

Fractions can be subtracted when the denominators are the same.

$$\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$



$$1\frac{2}{6} - \frac{5}{6} = \frac{3}{6}$$

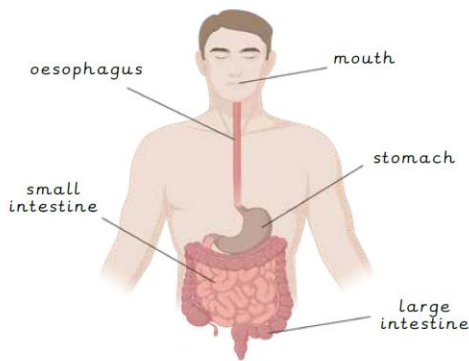


Science - Knowledge Organiser

Science - Digestion and food



The human digestive system



Mouth: teeth are used for cutting and grinding and saliva softens and breaks up food.

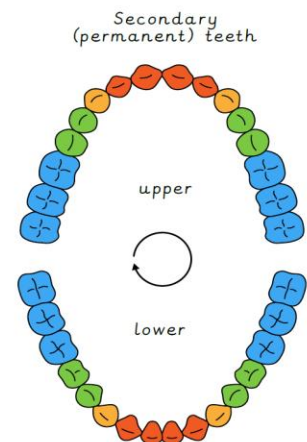
Oesophagus: carries food from the mouth to the stomach.

Stomach: breaks up food using acid.

Small intestine: breaks up food and absorbs nutrients into the blood.

Large intestine: absorbs water into the blood.

Human teeth



Incisor: a tooth at the front of the mouth, useful for cutting.

Canine: a pointed tooth, useful for tearing.

Premolar: a tooth in front of the molars, useful for grinding.

Molar: a tooth at the back of the mouth, useful for grinding.

Teeth in different animals

Animals have different shaped teeth depending on their diet. **Carnivores** tend to have much larger canines to help catch and tear their prey. **Herbivores** tend to have larger, flatter molars to grind and crush the plants they eat.



Science - Digestion and food



Evidence scientists use



X-rays are used to produce images of inside the body. They help doctors and dentists to find and treat problems.



Fossils are the remains or traces of an animal or plant that lived long ago. Fossilised teeth can give clues about an animal's diet by comparing their teeth to those of modern animals.

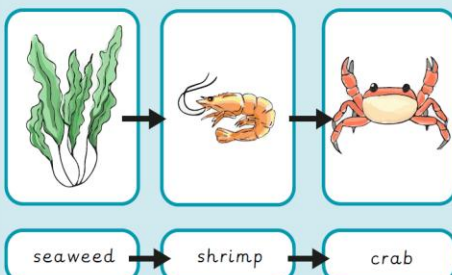


Faeces are the solid waste from the **digestive system**. The contents of the faeces can show what an animal has eaten and if it is living nearby.

Further vocabulary

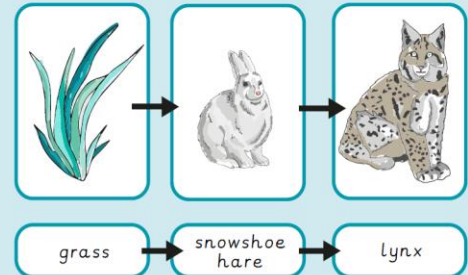
absorb	To take in or soak up.
digest	To break up food into smaller pieces.
predator	Something that hunts and kills its food.
prey	Something that is hunted and killed for food.
producer	A living thing that makes its own food.
saliva	The liquid added to the mouth to help chewing, swallowing and digestion.

Food chains show the energy being passed between living things in a habitat



Food chains usually contain three or four living things.

Food chains always start with a **producer** (plant), followed by an animal that eats the plant (**herbivore** or **omnivore**) and an animal that eats other animals (**carnivore** or **omnivore**).



Geography - Knowledge Organiser

Geography - Why are rainforests important to us?

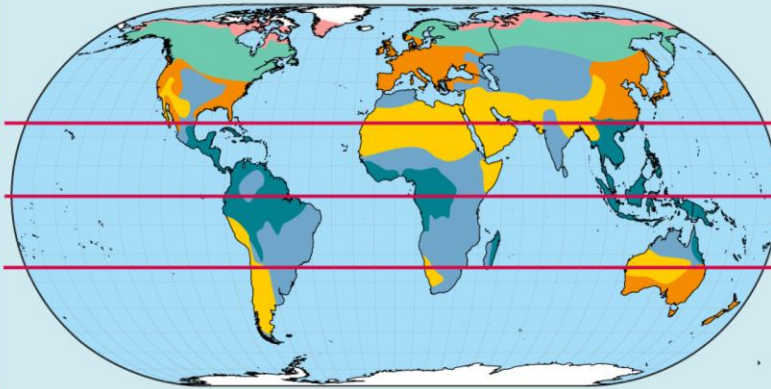


Map of the world's biomes

biome

An area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live.

- Tundra
- Boreal forest
- Temperate deciduous forest
- Savannah
- Tropical rainforest
- Desert



Tropic of Cancer

A line of latitude north of the Equator which marks the northernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

Equator

An invisible horizontal line that splits the world into two hemispheres.

Tropic of Capricorn

A line of latitude south of the Equator which marks the southernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

Tropical rainforest



How have plants adapted in the Amazon rainforest?



Thin, smooth bark ensures rain can run off trees easily.



Buttress roots keep tall trees stable in the wet soil and strong winds.



Drip tips mean rain can run off leaves without damaging them.



Lianas (vines) wind their way up other plants to reach sunlight.

Geography - Why are rainforests important to us?



Map of the Amazon rainforest



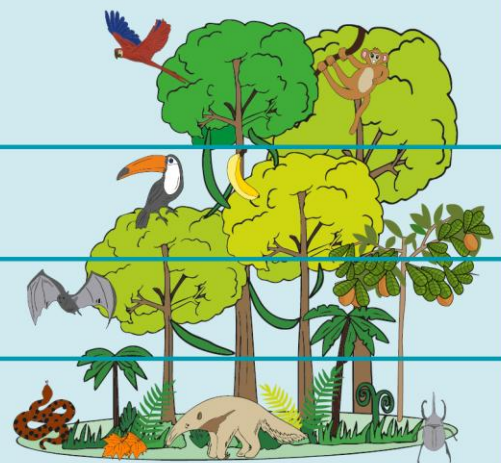
Layers of the rainforest

emergent layer

canopy layer

understorey layer

forest floor



global warming



When our Earth's temperature rises because of greenhouse gases.

mining



The process of digging up valuable minerals from the Earth's crust.

logging



The cutting down of trees for their wood.

deforestation



The cutting down of trees in a large area.

emergent layer

The top layer of the rainforest with the tallest trees that get lots of sunlight, rain and wind.

canopy layer

The layer of overlapping branches and leaves below the top of the rainforest that gets sunlight, rain and wind.

understorey layer

The warm and damp layer above the forest floor that gets little light.

forest floor

The ground layer of the rainforest where it is dark, wet and hot.

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	

Final thoughts.

Spring 2 is here, and we're buzzing with excitement! The next five weeks are going to be full of learning, laughter, and lots of "wow!" moments as the children continue to grow, explore, and shine.

This Half Term's Adventures

In class, we'll be diving into Maths, English, Geography, Science, PSHE, RE, Computing, DT, and Music. From experimenting and investigating to performing and creating, there's something for every curious mind to enjoy.

PE

Unfortunately, we won't be able to swim this half term. So Tuesdays will remain as PE days (in the mornings rather than afternoons though). We'll also continue our mindfulness / meditation sessions, giving the children time to relax, reflect, and recharge their brains.

Keep in Touch

Have a question, want to share a proud moment, or just say hello? Drop me a message on Dojo – I check it regularly and love hearing from you! Keep an eye on ParentMail for key dates, events, and updates.

Thanks for helping make this half term fun, busy, and full of brilliant learning moments – we can't wait to see the children flourish!

Kindest,

Miss Morys



What's a hare's favourite vegetable?

A hop-eroni pizza... with extra carrots!