



Barrington Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School

Haslingfield Road
Barrington
Cambridge
CB22 7RG

Tel: 01223 712273

Fax: 01223 712276

Email: office@barrington.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: head@barrington.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.barrington.cambs.sch.uk

*Belonging Believing;
Together Succeeding*

Headteacher: Mrs G. Davies

20th January 2023

Blue Class Curriculum – Spring Term

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all. It has been lovely being back together as a class and getting stuck in to lots more learning. This half term I have two student teachers from Homerton College, Miss Bosio and Miss Balgarnie. It has been really beneficial for the children to have this extra support in the classroom and they are now enjoying being taught by Miss Bosio and Miss Balgarnie as the students begin more teaching in their placement at Barrington School.

Topic: This term our topic is 'Vile Victorians' where we will be exploring life in the Victorian times. Your child will learn about life for children, Victorian foods, schools and inventions. We have already begun exploring the Victorian period on a timeline and have learnt all about Queen Victoria. There are so many exciting lessons and opportunities involved in this topic and we hope your child will feel particularly engaged with this learning. I am currently doing my best to organise a very exciting trip linked to our topic and will send details of this as soon as I am able to.

This term, we will continue to use Dojo points in class as rewards for specific behaviour and skills but in keeping with the Cambridgeshire STEPS behaviour training, we will not be keeping a termly total for individuals, just for the class target. The children are also awarded tokens for the end of term treat, so when your child is awarded a Dojo, they can collect a token to be dropped into the bucket containing the treat of their choice.

We also continue to use class partnerships in Blue Class. This provides a brilliant opportunity for your child to support and be supported by their peers and is a great tactic for developing oracy and team building skills. These partnerships change half-termly.

English: Through discreet English lessons, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar lessons (SPAG), and cross-curricular lessons we aim to cover a range of genres covering poetry, fiction and non fiction. Writing is an area that has many different parts including punctuation, spelling, and description to make it interesting as well as checking it to ensure it makes sense and neat handwriting. Any extra encouragement you can give to help your child write at home would be much appreciated, for example in their reading record, shopping list, letter to grandparents, short stories if they want to write at home, as well as writing some homework rather than typing. This term we are looking at the book 'Star in the Jar' and exploring narrative writing through this. We will also be exploring instruction writing linked to magic tricks and Victorian poetry.

Reading: In Blue Class, we are keen to promote a love of reading and have daily 'Whole Class Guided Reading' sessions where we share a book as a class. This provides an opportunity for the children to hear a range of texts and is a great way to experience reading expression, intonation and projection of voice. The sessions also allow us to develop reading skills such as inference and prediction. Our current class book is Tilly and the Time Machine by Adrian Edmondson. Your child has a copy of the book in class. Blue Class children will continue to have a reading book and reading record and we continue ask that your child



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reads **at least three times a week** as this is part of their essential home learning. There is guidance for completing the reading record at the front of the reading record. Please help your child to remember to bring their reading book and reading record in every day. We are monitoring which children remember to do this and are rewarding partnership points weekly. We use our reading books most days and need the books and records to assess your child's reading level and so having them in school is essential.

Maths: This term in maths, we will be looking at multiplication and division. Year 3s will begin by looking at and representing multiplication facts for the 3, 4, 6 and 8 times table. Year 4s will be exploring these and also their 9 times tables. Please support your child with practising their times tables using these websites:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>.

[Times tables games - Timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk)

[KS2 free maths game - Primary mathematics skills - Times tables, multiplication, division, algebra, fractions and decimals - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Times Tables Games for 7 to 11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk)

A statutory end of year times-table assessment has recently been introduced for **Year 4** children and support for learning times-tables can be found on the website and Google Classroom. This resource online requires the children to be able to answer a times table question within 6 seconds – that is the same as for the end of year test. The assessment is timed and the below link will help your Year 4 child prepare for this <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>. Whilst we do not encourage a test type environment in class, we welcome any practise of multiplication facts and you are more than welcome to test your child at home with quick fire questions at the meal table, in the car or on the way to school.

Times-table work will be part of the essential learning.

PE: PE will be with Mr Herd on **Wednesday afternoons** and Mrs Alderton will teach yoga with a specific focus on mindfulness and self-confidence building on **Tuesday mornings**. Please ensure your child has all they need for PE each week, especially if they attend a club and go home in their PE kit. We have a no tape policy for earrings. **They need to be removed please. Please help your child practise removing their earrings at home, so they feel confident doing it independently in school.** If this is a problem, please speak to us.

Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school including tracksuit bottoms/ shorts, top and a change of footwear for PE. Occasionally due to weather or restrictions on use of the hall we have to change days so your child's PE kit needs to be in school at all times.

Home activities and Learning essentials: Please make sure you are continuing to read with your child at least three times a week and **your child** is recording this in their reading log. The reading log guidance helps explain how reading should be recorded but we are asking that all recording is completed by the child to encourage their reading skills and independence. Please also support your child with handwriting practice. They should focus on writing neatly on lined paper, forming lower case and capital letters correctly. There is a list of Year 3/4 words which children are expected to spell by the end of Year 4 on the school website and on Google Classroom. There are essential learning tasks related to class learning on Google Classroom but rather than 1 task to be handed in each week, we expect your child to complete a task from the list so by the end of the term they will have completed many challenges. There may be additional tasks to be completed if your child needs more time to go over a specific concept but we will be in touch if this is the case. Essential learning tasks aim to ensure meaningful learning is completed as occasionally homework is not always a true representation of understanding and it can mean there is not enough time to also complete essential skills like reading and times tables. As many of you will already be aware, we are also sending home weekly words with a focus sound as well as three 'words of the week' taken from the Year 3/4 key word list. These words go home via email each Friday.

Drama

This term we will be working with Mr Tim Clarke from St John's School. Mr Clarke is a drama teacher and will be visiting us once a week to teach Blue Class all about the world of acting. Mr Clarke is also supporting us with our preparation for a Y3/4 mid-year performance.

Growth Mindset and Resilience: We are continuing to build a class of children able to cope when things do not go their way, through sharing mistakes and finding solutions together, to show mistakes are positive learning experiences and an important part of daily life. This is a thread throughout all lessons, especially PSHE. If you have any concerns about your child's anxieties, worries or resilience, please send us an email. Partnership and Dojo points are specifically given when resilience is displayed.

Thank you again for your support and we hope your child and you enjoy this term's learning and activities. If you need to contact us about any aspect of your child's learning or well-being, our email addresses are below.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Meredew and Mrs Cambridge

BMeredew@barrington.cambs.sch.uk

dcambridge@barrington.cambs.sch.uk