



Fishbourne C E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N Day MA (Ed)

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Dear Cheetah Class Families,

Welcome back to school and to Year 4! We hope you've all had a wonderful summer and that you are feeling refreshed, rested, and ready for the year ahead. We've got so many wonderful things planned this year, from thought-provoking stories to creative projects and inspiring trips, and we can't wait to dive in together.

Team Cheetahs

This summer was a very special one for me as I got married! I am no longer Miss Baldwin but now Mrs Harvey – it may take a little while for us all to get used to, but I know the children will enjoy reminding me when I forget! We are also incredibly lucky to have the brilliant Mrs Huxtable in class with us this year, bringing her warmth and expertise to support the children's learning. As well as this, the children will continue to enjoy a rich and varied curriculum. They will be taught French, RE, Music and Computing on a half-termly rotation with Madame Gifford and Mr Servant on Friday afternoons.

Contacting us

We always value open communication and working in partnership with families. If you'd like to chat to a member of the Cheetah team, please do come and see us at the end of the school day. If that's not possible, you can contact us by email at **cheetahs@fishbourneprimary.co.uk**, which we check once a day during the working week. For any information about changes to collection arrangements, please contact the school office directly so that nothing is missed.

The school day

A reminder about our new start time: the gates will now open at 8:40am and remain open for 5 minutes before registration begins. Please make sure your child brings their named pencil case to school each day. This year we will have PE on

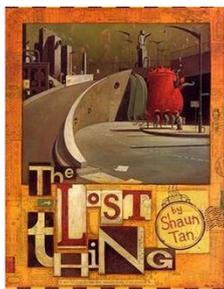
Mondays and Wednesdays so please ensure they are prepared with kit on these days.

Upcoming Learning Experiences

This term, the Cheetahs are going to be storytellers, historians, scientists and artists! We have so many fun and meaningful learning experiences planned, and we can't wait to share them with the children.

PSHE: Only One You: Celebrating What Makes Us Shine.

We'll begin our journey together by reflecting on our own strengths, talents, and goals. Using Donna Ashworth's beautiful poems *Fitting* and *Youier* as inspiration, we'll celebrate individuality and encourage every child to feel proud of who they are. This is a wonderful way to set the tone for the year – helping each child feel confident, valued, and ready to shine.



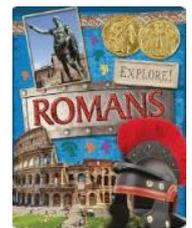
Narrative: Where do lost things belong?

We will then enjoy a two-week narrative learning experience inspired by Shaun Tan's *The Lost Thing* – a moving picture book that gently explores themes of isolation, belonging, and acceptance. Through its imaginative storytelling and striking illustrations, the book invites us to think deeply about what it means to notice, to care, and to find a place where you truly fit. Together, we will explore extracts from the story and

study high-quality modelled examples of ambitious vocabulary and key sentence structures, equipping the children with the skills to produce their own thoughtful and imaginative pieces of writing.

History: Romans on the Rampage

Next, we'll journey back in time to meet the Romans. To bring this history to life, we'll start with a fantastic trip to the Roman Palace on 22nd September, where the children will take part in exciting workshops and discover what life was like in Roman Britain. (We will need some wonderful parent helpers for this day – please let us know if you can join us!) Back in class, the children will focus on diary writing, stepping into the shoes of people from the past to really imagine what life might have felt like.

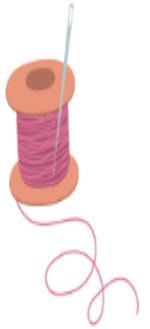


Art: Brushstrokes of land and sea

Before half term, we'll turn our attention to landscapes and seascapes, drawing inspiration from our stunning local area as well as famous artists who have explored these themes. The children will experiment with different techniques and media, giving them the freedom to be bold, expressive, and creative in their artwork.

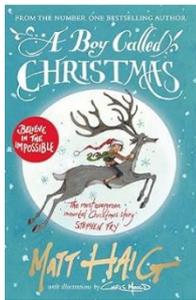
DT: Stitching Christmas Magic

After half term, we'll join the whole school for our Design and Technology Learning Experience. In Year 4, our focus will be on textiles, as we design, create, and evaluate our very own Christmas decorations. This will be a wonderful opportunity to practise practical skills, problem-solve, and create something to treasure – and to get us all in the festive spirit nice and early!



Science: Can You Hear That? The Science of Sound!

Our first science adventure will be all about sound. The children will explore how sounds are made, how they travel, and how we hear them. We'll be experimenting, investigating, and asking lots of questions, before finishing the unit by writing an explanation text to share our discoveries.



Narrative: Believe in Magic: A Christmas Adventure

Towards the end of term, we'll join Year 3 for a magical festive learning experience based on *A Boy Called Christmas*. This heart-warming story is the perfect way to finish our first term together, and it will be made even more special with a theatre trip on 18th December – a highlight we are all looking forward to!



What an exciting term lies ahead – bursting with opportunities to explore, create, and discover!

Home Learning

Each week, your child will receive home learning to complete. This will usually focus on times tables, spelling and reading, with occasional creative tasks linked to our learning experiences. Reading, however, remains the most important thing you can do at home. We ask that you read with your child for 15–20 minutes at least five times a week. You will be amazed at the difference this makes to their confidence and progress – and we know you'll enjoy sharing some wonderful books together. In school, we will aim to hear each child read at least once a week, so please make sure their reading diary is kept safely in their bag each day!

Times Tables

In Year 4, we place a big emphasis on learning all the times tables up to 12. This is not only to help children feel confident and prepared for the national multiplication check which will take place in June, but also because a secure knowledge of times tables is the key to success in so many areas of maths. Mastering them now will give children the fluency and confidence they need to tackle the challenges of the Year 5 curriculum and beyond.

Thank you

It has been so lovely to see so many of you already this week. At Fishbourne, we believe deeply in the importance of working closely with families, and we feel so privileged to be part of your child's learning journey. We are very excited about the year ahead and all that your children will achieve. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask – our door is always open.

With warmest wishes,
Mrs Harvey and Mrs Huxtable