



# Squirrels News

Dear Parents and Children,  
Welcome to Squirrel Class! After a relaxing summer holiday, I hope you are all ready for the start of the school year. This is the first time that we have started the year in our brilliant new building and the first time the class is officially called 'Squirrel Class'. This class will always be the inaugural 'Squirrel Class' - what an honour!

The half termly newsletters provide you with some useful information about the half term ahead and I will also share and celebrate our learning from the previous half term. There is also a topic overview of what we are learning this half term in Squirrel Class. If there is anything else you need clarifying then please do not hesitate in contacting us through the school office. I look forward to working with you all over the year ahead.

Best wishes, Katharine McMeekan

**Classroom Organisation** Squirrel Class is a mixed age class with an even mix of Year 3 and Year 4 children. I teach the class every day except for a Thursday afternoon when Mrs Walker will teach the class and address the spelling aspects of the English curriculum and Spanish and RE as well. Our class will also be supported by Mrs Franklin and Mrs Francisco throughout the week. In Squirrel Class, both the Year 3 and 4 curriculum are taught and while different aspects of the curriculum are taught at different times of the terms compared to Deer and Skylark classes, the whole curriculum is addressed across the year for the different age groups.

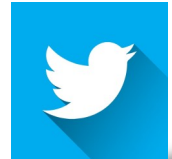
**BAGS:** Children can bring in their bags containing their Reading Records and reading books and leave them on their school peg. They will also need a named water bottle every day which will be brought home at the end of the day.

**Times Tables** The children will be assessed on a particular multiplication table each week, they will be asked to complete their specific multiplication table. The children will build up gradually to be able to answer the questions within about 10 seconds to encourage speed. Once the children have completed their 12 times tables they will then move onto working on 'speed tables'. If you could also encourage the children to use Times Tables Rockstars at home then that would also be fantastic. The logins will be stuck in the front of their school planner.



**PE** Our PE lessons are scheduled to be on a Wednesday and a Friday. The children will be asked to bring their PE kits to school on these days and get changed before the lessons. Wednesday's session will be indoors and school PE kit will be worn. Our Friday sessions will be outdoors, weather conditions permitting. It can get quite chilly outside so extra layers like sweatshirt, hoodies and joggers/leggings are useful to keep in their PE bags

**Twitter** The @SquirrelsHFS Twitter account has on-going posts of what the children are doing in our class throughout the year and is a brilliant platform for you to follow activities and progress of the children. Please follow us if you can.



**Spellings** Spelling is an integral part of writing, so your help would be appreciated in encouraging your child to regularly learn the spellings set, to enable them to use them in their writing. The children will be set spellings each week given to them by Mrs Walker on a Thursday and they will be assessed on them the following Thursday. You will also receive a copy of the on-going key word list for Year 3 and Year 4 children. It would be wonderful if the children could learn these words alongside their weekly spellings so that they will have a solid grasp of how to spell them by end of Year 4.

**Reading** The children read individually on a regular basis and it is also important that they read on a daily basis at home. Reading books, which have been chosen by the children, will be sent home every night, to be returned the following day, whether the book is finished or not. Planners will be checked regularly, with children being encouraged to record the pages they have read in their own reading planner. If the children have finished the school's reading scheme boxes then they are welcome to choose books to read from the free readers section of the Library or alternatively a suitable book from home.



**Homework** Homework will be set either using Seesaw on a Friday or in their homework books which they will bring home and return to school by the following Tuesday. The homework will be a range of activities from different curriculum areas throughout the year. The activities will be set to support learning in class and will be matched to the children's ability.