



Jessie Younghusband School

Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 4 and our autumn term curriculum letter. Here you will find useful information relating to this term's topics and special events, along with helpful information for you to assist your child in their first term in Year 4.

Important information:

Clothing

- Please can P.E. kit be in school **all week** from Monday morning. Ideally the children will then take them home each Friday to be washed. We will begin our P.E. units this year with netball and swimming.
- Children should bring a change of clothes and shoes if they intend to use the field at playtime during wet weather.
- To ensure that any 'found' items can be returned to their owners, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other clothing brought to school is clearly named.
- Children will need their swimming kits on **Thursdays**.

Home Learning

- Home Learning is usually set on a **Friday** and should be returned by the following **Wednesday**. This is unless a project task is set in which the children will have more time to complete it. In most instances, home learning will be linked to what the children have been learning in class that week or a task in preparation for the following week's learning.
- The children will receive a **spelling list every Friday** along with their home learning task. These spellings will be reviewed every Friday morning so the children have a week to practice these at home and become confident with spelling these words independently.
- Please try and read with your children as much as possible – supporting your child by listening to them read and engaging with them on the content of their reading material.

This term:

We are going to begin this term by learning about the ancient Maya civilisation in our topic "The Mystery of the Maya". Sadly a trip to south eastern Mexico or northern Central America for the entire class is not part of the term's plan! We will however, have a very exciting Maya afternoon with our visiting specialist Paul Ullson. The children will also be involved in artwork, mask making and drama activities throughout the term and during the topic we shall be finding out about customs and lifestyles of the Maya people, as well as looking at how we know about them as a civilisation. In the second half term we will be learning all about chocolate in our topic "From bean to bar"! We will be looking at where chocolate originates from and how it is made. This will involve looking at the process of chocolate from bean to bar. We will also have lots of opportunities to taste test, experiment and design our own chocolate. This will be a great topic in the lead up to Christmas!

Ideas for supporting your child's learning:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about the Maya people;
- <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/problem-solving> - This is a useful website with some fun interactive games and resources which have been categorised into different sections;
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/mayans> - This is a useful website which gives brief overview of Maya civilisation.
- <https://easyscienceforkids.com/best-melting-chocolate-video-for-kids/> - Fun chocolate facts!

Finally...

- I am available after school most afternoons if you need to discuss any matters you might have or you may speak with the office to arrange a time to speak with me.
- Please let us know if you are able to help with trips, special events and cooking activities – your help is most welcome!

I look forward to working with you all over the course of this year!

Kind regards,

Miss Richardson