



Summer 1

Half Term Information for Parents

Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, we hope you have had an egg-cellent Easter break! I am very much looking forward to beginning our new topic for this half term which will be 'Tour de Northumberland/Healthy, Happy Me'. This information sheet tells you all about this topic and how it will stretch across the curriculum, across a range of the children's lessons. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Summer 1 – 'Tour de Northumberland/Healthy, Happy Me'

Cross curricular links:

English: Our English lessons this term will be rooted in our topic and history lessons and will allow the children to write in a range of different styles and for different purposes. Our new class novel will be 'Stig of the Dump' written by Clive King and children will be writing a postcard home, from the perspective of the book's main character Barney. Additionally, children will take an imaginary trip into Stig's cave, and will write a setting description of what they see, exploring effective techniques for building suspense. As part of our history lessons, children will complete a mini case study on Skara Brae and will write a visitor information leaflet in our Literacy lessons. We will read the book 'Ug' written by Raymond Briggs and will explore the comic strip structure, before children re-write the story using a comic strip format.

D&T (to be taught by Miss Pickering): With a link to our topic (particularly Science), children will consider what is meant by a 'healthy diet' and will consider how they can adapt their lifestyles to include some healthier choices. We will explore the contents of lunch boxes and will begin to research healthier alternatives (including organic produce and free range eggs), building up to taste tests. Children will explore new tastes and our special visitor will help the children to understand how healthier alternatives do not always sacrifice taste and enjoyment. Our special visitor will explore healthy alternatives with the children, introducing new foods and tastes.

PE: Children will develop skills in throwing, catching, defending, attacking and goal scoring and will be given the opportunity to apply their new skills in a range of competitive games and matches. Children will take part in Cyclor Generation, enjoying half day cycles along the coastline.

Science: In our Science lessons, children will learn about the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth, in the context of healthy living and making healthy choices. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. In addition, they will extend their understanding of food chains to more complex chains and food webs.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

History: Children will explore the stone age to the iron age chronologically, studying many different aspects of life during this period and the changes in Britain which took place. Children will piece together a timeline, covering the historical events which we have studied so far, to include the stone age to the iron age. Children will order the stages of human evolution and gain an understanding as to how humans have evolved in response to their environment and lifestyle. Children will study homes, clothing, hunter-gathers, settlements and will complete a mini case study on Skara Brae. We will discuss how we now have an understanding of the past, and how this knowledge and understanding is constructed through a range of sources (link to archaeology).

Computing/Music: Children will use one or more programs to edit music and will create and develop a musical composition, refining their ideas through reflection and discussion. Children will develop their collaboration skills, producing music suitable for any purpose they choose. Computing lessons will also incorporate our music curriculum: children will: improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music; listen with attention to detail; appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live

and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians.

Maths: Children have been exploring fractions in such great depth during our maths lessons, and as a result we have some catching up to do! We will continue to investigate fractions during this half term; finding fractions of amounts, exploring tenths and hundredths and finding equivalent decimals and fractions. Additionally, children will estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence; read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12- and 24-hour clocks and will solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months; weeks to days. We will then move into geometry; looking at quadrilaterals and triangles and then exploring symmetry and orientation. We will continue to use a range of objects and apparatus to investigate complex concepts – Mrs Gates will look for healthier alternatives to sweets!

MFL(French): The topic for French this half term is Mon Jour. We will cover the following: Numbers to 60, Drinks, Snacks, Likes and dislikes, School subjects, Revision of time and days of the week.

RE: Children will learn about beliefs and practices, specifically Christian teaching; Saints, saintliness and sainthood.

How can you help?

- We have many instances of children forgetting their PE kits and so unfortunately they are unable to take part in our lessons. Please remind children to make sure that they are taking responsibility for bringing their own equipment/PE kits into school when needed – particularly while children are taking part in Cycle Generation this half term.
- Ensure children bring their reading records into school, particularly on Fridays when dojo points are given out for children who have read at home during the week.
- **Practise the year 3/4 spelling list** as well as the high frequency words. Additional homework may be sent out during the half term, to support children with their spelling.
- Share your child's school reading book with them once or twice a week, **questioning children on their predictions of what might happen next. Can they use evidence in the book to support their answer?** As children become more independent in their reading, you may wish to allow your child to read independently and then question them on their understanding of the content.
- Ask your child which **times table** we are currently practising, year 4 focus on 2-3 times tables per week and extra practise at home would be extremely beneficial!
- If you have any interesting topic related artefacts that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school. We would love to see any photographs of visits or food tastings (healthy alternatives) which you may have with your children, linked to our new topic.

Homework

Children will receive a creative homework grid, detailing a range of different activities for children to choose from; children should complete at **least three of these**. All of these activities are linked to our current topic and will help enhance and enrich your child's learning.