



Summer 2 Half Term Information for Parents Year 4

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what will be year 4's last half term at New Hartley! We have a very busy half term ahead and an exciting final topic to finish with... 'Chocolate – From Bean to Bar'. 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 2 – 'Chocolate – From Bean to Bar'

Cross curricular links:

English: Our English lessons this term will be rooted in our topic and will allow the children to write in a range of different styles and for different purposes. Children will be introduced to our new topic with a chocolate tasting session which will allow them to explore the five senses. We will create a word bank from this lesson and will expand on this further after studying the chocolate river scene in Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Children will then apply this new vocabulary to the writing of expanded noun phrases. In our topic lessons, we will be exploring the origins of chocolate and how chocolate is made and, with a link to our taster session, children will explore the impact of the percentage of cocoa content in chocolate. This will culminate in the children writing a letter to Mrs Dowdney in an attempt to persuade her to allow chocolate to replace fruit during milk and fruit on Fridays. We will study Michael Rosen's poem 'Chocolate Cake', discussing his use of tone, intonation, volume and gesture during his performance. Children will mimic these techniques in their own performance. We will discuss the features of this poem, comparing and contrasting to poems we have studied previously and will move on to writing their own narrative poem inspired by 'Chocolate Cake'. Our topic lessons will allow children the opportunity to complete a written explanation of how chocolate is made. In our D&T lessons, children will produce a leaflet advertising their prototype chocolate bar which will make effective use of persuasive features, ensuring that the unique selling point is evident and explicit.

History: Children will explore the Maya ancient civilization, studying many aspects of their lives. We will begin with a detailed introduction; ensuring children understand where this period sits chronologically, in relation to the historical events and eras studied so far. Children will chronologically order given events, we will explore the Maya number system and use these to create secret messages and codes, children will explore food and will follow recipes to make a Maya hot chocolate and a tortilla. We will look at Maya dress and jewellery and children will design their own Maya headdress. We will look at the Maya famous landmarks and monuments, including Chichen Itza.

Geography/PSCHE: Children will explore where in the world the ancient Maya civilization were. They will taste chocolate from around the world and will locate countries of origin using a world map. Additionally, children will study Fairtrade during PSCHE lessons and will explore whereabouts in the world Fairtrade is making a difference and how Fairtrade works.

D&T: With a link to our topic, children will bring a chocolate into school with an interesting mould. We will explore these and consider their aesthetics and practicality, in terms of a prototype. Children will use their conclusions to inform their own design, which will then be used to make a prototype mould and chocolate bar. Children will evaluate their designs and consider its success in meeting the design criteria.

Science: This 'States of Matter' unit will teach children about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have the chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle, creating mini water worlds and an interactive water wheel to represent the different stages.

Subjects being taught separately this half term:

Computing/Music: We Are HTML Editors' (Rising Stars Unit 4.4)

Children will understand some technical aspects of how the internet makes the web possible; use HTML tags for elementary mark up; use hyperlinks to connect ideas and sources; code up a simple web page with useful content; understand some of the risks in using the web.

Maths: Following White Rose: Money (1 week carried from Summer 1), Time, Statistics, Geometry (position and direction). Children will solve simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to two decimal places. We 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; solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months; weeks to days. Children will be taught to compare and classify geometric shapes, including quadrilaterals and triangles; explore symmetry; identify acute and obtuse angles and compare and order angles up to two right angles by size; identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations. Whilst exploring shape, children will describe positions on a 2-D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant; describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down; plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon. Finally we will interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.

PE (taught by Miss Pickering): Children will practise, throwing and catching and running in isolation and will then apply their skills in small games of rounders, building up to whole class games. Children will practise for their sports day events, developing their skills in sprinting, jumping and throwing. Children will also choreograph and learn a short dance sequence to form part of their leaver's assembly.

RE (taught by Miss Pickering): Scriptures – children will look at compare and contrast scriptures from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.

How can you help?

- In preparation for their transition to middle school, please support your child in becoming independent and accountable for their own learning, taking responsibility themselves for ensuring that they have everything they need. This includes having all the equipment they need for the day, such as PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- Practise the year 3/4 spelling list as well as the high frequency words which were sent home at the beginning of the year. If you would like additional copies please let me know. Can your child read and spell them? Can they use them in a sentence?
- Complete homework activities with your child, including encouraging your child to access their Mathletics account.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, 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.
- Practise mental maths including times tables (up to 12 x 12), we are up to the 9,11 and 12 times tables, however, some children require consolidation of the 6,7, and 8 times tables. The Topmarks website and the Mathletics app are great for times tables practise.
- If you have any interesting topic related artefacts that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school – baked goods are most welcome! 😊

Homework

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

Class Reminders

PE: Y4 – Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning

Reading books and records must be in school every day.