

Class 4 Newsletter

April 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Class 4! I hope that you all enjoyed your Easter holiday. We are looking forward to an exciting term with some new topics and hopefully some good weather. Our new topic is actually all about this!

The children and staff all really enjoyed our last topic. The children have relished finding out all about the first moon landing. We have been really impressed with all of their superb knowledge.

This half term, we will be answering the question 'What is the weather like around the world?' We will be looking at different countries and learning about what the weather is like there, and most importantly, why this is so. We will be using lots of our geographical skills as well as embedding our knowledge of the 7 continents and learning about the equator and the North and South Poles. We have already learnt about our solar system and we will be going on to find out about how the Earth's position in relation to the sun effects the seasons and weather.

PE

Our PE days for this half term are **Wednesday** and **Friday**.

We are fortunate to continue having coaches from the Newcastle United Football Foundation working with the children every Wednesday. The focus this half term will be football and our Friday PE will be athletics. All of our PE will continue to be outside.

Maths

To support mental maths and to encourage quick calculations, a great game to play at home, in the car or walking along, is the 'What is my number?' game. Children are given a number to put in their heads and then you ask them to add numbers to it, subtract numbers from it, halve it, double it, times by 2 etc. The children really love the challenge of this game and you can make it easier or harder depending on how confident your child is.

Reading

This half term, we will be continuing to work on comprehension skills and will expect children to be able to discuss the books they are reading. We will be working on enabling children to summarise pages and to make predictions based on what they have read. Children can often find inference and deduction more difficult than just retrieving information and we will be providing lots of opportunities for children to practise these skills. We would appreciate it if you could continue to reinforce these

reading strategies at home too and continue to check your child's understanding of more challenging vocabulary.

Grammar

When reading, children can also be encouraged to identify verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs in sentences. In our work on writing instructions, for example, we were exploring how adverbs give us more information about how we do something. We are working on being able to identify these in sentences and use them ourselves to improve our writing.

This year, the statutory end of Key Stage 1 SATs have been cancelled due to COVID-19. However, in school, we will be using past papers in maths and reading to support teacher assessment and help us to identify whether children have met expectations in these areas. We will also be using teacher assessment to assess children's writing in the way that we have done previously. We will then report this information to you at the end of the year in your child's end of year report and we will use this information to help Year 3 teachers to plan to meet children's needs in Key Stage 2.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and please don't hesitate to ask if you have any question, big or small. Please continue to use Seesaw to send me messages if you need to.

Sue Ward



English

Reading opportunities:

We will be reading lots of different fiction and non-fiction texts so that we can develop our comprehension skills. We will also be reading explanation texts to help us with our writing. Our Key Story will be 'Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine. Linked to our topic of weather around the world, we will read information books.

We will continue with our weekly reading lessons working on specific reading skills.

Throughout the half term children will be:

- predicting and discussing events
- explaining and discussing understanding of texts
- applying phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words
- reading accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words
- inferring what characters are like from actions
- making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done

Writing opportunities:

In writing, children will learn to write character descriptions, stories and explanations.

Children will be:

- using well-chosen adjectives
- using some expanded noun phrases to describe and specify
- using adverbs for extra detail
- grouping related information
- learning to join letters and ensuring that they can form their letters correctly
- using familiar and new punctuation correctly including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks and commas for lists
- organising writing in line with its purpose
- using co-ordination (or/and/but)
- using subordination (when/if/that/because)

Handwriting:

We will be learning the following joins:

- *ck, al, el, at, ill, ill*
- *ui, ey, aw, ur, an*
- *ok, to, ob, ol*
- *oi, oy, on, op, ov*
- *ed, cc, e.g., ic, ad, ug, dd, ag*

Spelling: We will be revising the spelling patterns learnt so far this year.

Maths

We will be revising and embedding skills and knowledge in maths and in particular:

Number:

Children will learn to:

- count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward or backward
- add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations, and mentally, including: one-digit and two-digit numbers to 100, including zero
- use place value and number facts to solve problems
- recognise the place value of each digit in a two-digit number (tens, ones)
- apply their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods in addition and subtraction
- recognise and use the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and use this to check calculations and solve missing number problems
- calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division within the multiplication tables and write them using the multiplication (\times), division (\div) and equals (=) signs
- solve problems involving multiplication and division, using materials, arrays, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication and division facts, including problems in contexts

We will also be learning:

Measurement (Time):

Children will learn to:

- tell and write the time to five minutes, including quarter past/to the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times
- know the number of minutes in an hour and hours in a day
- compare and sequence intervals of time

Measurement:

Children will learn to:

- choose and use appropriate standard units to estimate and measure mass (kg/g); temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$); capacity (litres/ml) to the nearest appropriate unit, using scales, thermometers and measuring vessels
- compare and order lengths, mass, volume/capacity and record the results using $>$, $<$ and $=$

Position and Direction:

Children will learn to:

- describe movement and turns

