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Wednesday 11th September, 2019

Year 4 - Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year. We will be spending some time over the first few days establishing our Class Charter and discussing the rights and the responsibilities we have in Year 4 in order to make our class and school a fun, fair and motivating place to learn. We will be finding out about what it is like to be the oldest children in the school and getting started with new responsibilities that this brings, like being a buddy, a playground warden, holding the doors in assembly and of course serving in our school restaurant! We will be putting our ideas together to make a class charter which will be displayed in our class to reinforce these rights and responsibilities throughout the year. These rules will be constantly and consistently reinforced so that we all have "a great year!" and the children will end the year feeling self confident and ready for the challenge of starting their new schools.

Please do not hesitate to talk to the team if you have any questions or concerns.

The team are:



Miss. A. Johnson
Year Four Class Teacher / **Deputy Headteacher**
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. L. Scott
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. K. Hall
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Tuesday)



Mrs. S. Howell
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Wednesday - Friday)



Mrs. S. Long
1:1 Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)

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The best time to catch us is just before or after school.

Topics –

We will be studying **Shakespeare** and **Our Blue Planet: Water**, this term. This is a fun and motivating topic providing learning opportunities across the curriculum in subjects such as: History, Science, Geography, Art, DT, Literacy, PE, Drama and Music. There will be two trips for our Shakespeare Adventure on the 23rd of September and the 6th November - read on to find out more. There will also be some other events, themed weeks and activities this term which we will keep you informed of via the weekly newsletter and the class blog.

Our Shakespeare Adventure -

We are lucky enough to be involved with the Shakespeare Schools Foundation this term. The year 4 children will be involved with producing an abridged version of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Weymouth Pavilion on the evening of Wednesday 6th November, so put the date in your diary! This promises to be a truly one off experience with the opportunity for children to be involved in a professionally supported production either through acting and performing or supporting its production. Please see the additional letters detailing what this involves for your child. If you are a dab hand with costumes we would also be interested to hear from you!

Snacks and Water –

To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy lifestyle we would like children to bring a healthy snack to school each day to eat after the daily mile in addition to a bottle of water (some of the children who don't bring a snack often complain of being hungry long before lunch and this interferes with their ability to concentrate). We are encouraging the children to drink and eat smart by keeping hydrated through the day and be conscious of what they are eating. Snacks such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged. As last year and in line with our school's policy, please can you provide your child with water only to drink during lesson time. If your child requires a squash based drink they may bring an additional bottle which can be kept in their lunch boxes or bags to be drunk at lunch time only.

Book Bags –

Please could you help your child to remember to bring their book bags to school every day. Year 4 children need to begin to be responsible for remembering this and organising themselves in readiness for middle school. Book bags are needed for library, quiet reading, Read Write Inc, class reading and spelling activities as well as Individual reading to teachers, classroom assistants and parent helpers. A computer system logs books in and out just like a real library, so please don't return Library books directly to the shelves!

Knowledge Organisers -

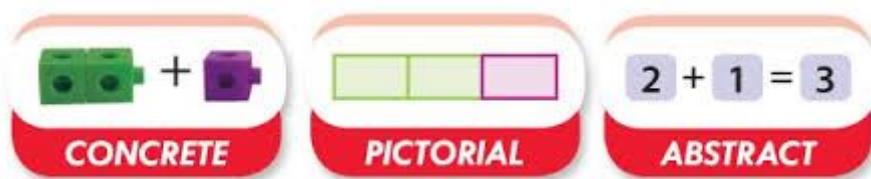
We hope you have found the Knowledge Organisers that were sent home last week useful. This is the one stop shop for finding out about what we are learning about this half term. It also includes some useful questions to use at home to quiz children about what they have learned. I will be referring to these during our Parent Information session on Thursday 12th September, feel free to ask any questions you have.

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Mathematics Scheme - Power Maths:

We recognise that pupils need to develop their conceptual understanding. In other words, pupils don't only need to be able to recall facts quickly, they also need to be able to apply their knowledge in a range of different contexts, including those that are new and unfamiliar. This is the idea at the heart of 'Maths Mastery', an approach to Maths based upon best practice found in Singapore.

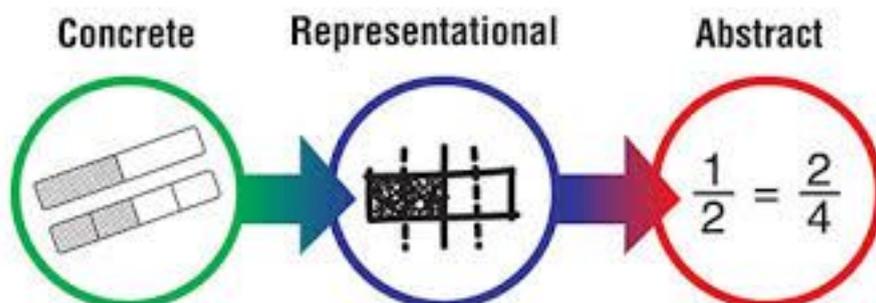
In order to develop conceptual understanding in our pupils, this year we are implementing the CPA approach to learning (concrete, pictorial and abstract). This approach recognises that in order for pupils to understand abstract concepts, they must first learn mathematical concepts through the use of concrete resources and pictorial representation.



Concrete is the 'doing' stage, using concrete objects to solve problems. It brings concepts to life by allowing children to handle physical objects themselves.

Pictorial is the 'seeing' stage, using representations of the objects involved in maths problems. This stage encourages children to make a mental connection between the physical object and abstract levels of understanding, by drawing or looking at pictures, circles, diagrams or models which represent the objects in the problem.

Abstract is the 'symbolic' stage, where children are able to use abstract symbols to model and solve maths problems.



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We have purchased a new scheme of learning called 'Power Maths' in order to help us embed this approach. This scheme is based upon extensive research into maths teaching around the world, particularly Singapore. We have also purchased new physical resources to use within our lessons.

Home Learning Activities –

In addition to spellings and reading as detailed above we are involved in the Mathletics program which is available online and we will also be allocating class time to using this to support our learning, the children will also be set times tables challenges to be practised and learned by the following Friday. In addition children will regularly bring home numeracy home learning and topic related projects. These projects will be set over a couple of weeks to give you plenty of time to be creative and to plan and produce a piece of work, allowing children to choose how to present it using and nurturing other valuable skills. Children who return their home learning will be rewarded for their efforts.

Assembly –

The date for our autumn assembly is **Thursday 14th November** and will be at 9:20am in the school hall. We will be using this opportunity to show the rest of the school our Shakespeare Play and you are welcome to attend. There will be a harvest celebration assembly on **Friday 11th October**, which you are also warmly invited to.

Swimming and PE Kits –

Year 4 will be swimming every Wednesday afternoon throughout the term beginning on Wednesday 25th September. We will be walking to the pool after lunchtime and return for the end of the day. We will be swimming in the big pool and small pool and all children need a hat and goggles as well as a one piece swimming costume for girls or swimming trunks/shorts for boys (the skin tight ones are better because they do not drag in the water).

Please could you also ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school. Children may also bring trainers and tracksuit bottoms for outside PE in the cooler weather, our PE sessions take place on Tuesday afternoon, in addition we will be taking part in The Daily Mile every day.

Parent Help –

Thank you to those of you who have offered help for reading, cooking and gardening in the past, we really do appreciate the time you spend with us. If anyone would like to come and help support the children in their learning please let a member of the team know.

Follow the Blog -

We are continually updating our blog, so for up to the minute news from the year 4 classroom please log on to the school website to view.

Yours faithfully,

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Miss Ann Johnson

Deputy Headteacher / Year 4 Class Teacher