



Burwell Village College Primary School

Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 2019

Mrs Wesley and Miss Mansfield

Introduction:

Happy new year and welcome back to the Spring term. This half term we also welcome Miss Heidi Andrews (SCITT trainee) in 4B for her alternative placement. After half term, Miss Hamilton will return to 4B to complete her training. This term our topic will begin with a history focus on the ancient Mayan civilization and lead into the geography of North America. After half term you will be invited into school to participate in our Busy Bees' Cafés and later to enjoy the year 4 production and exhibition of children's work. We look forward to an exciting term.

The Y4 staff this year are:

4a class teacher - Miss Mansfield
4b class teacher – Mrs Wesley
Trainee teacher in 4b – Miss Andrews / Miss Hamilton

Music teacher – Mrs Andrews
R.E – Mrs Saunders
French - Madame Jones
P.E (4a) – Mrs Woolfe

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Saunders, Mrs Lemon, Mrs Doyle

Spring term – Ancient Mayan Civilization

English

The Mayans invented the first hot chocolate drink so we will be reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl as our linked text. We will begin with some narrative writing based on the text as well as newspaper reports. After half term, we will look at play scripts and information texts.

Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary

We will continue to start each English lesson with a short activity linked to a GPV objective. Over the year, we will cover: word classes (nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, determiners and conjunctions), fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions and the use of apostrophes for contractions and possession. The children will be expected to apply this knowledge into their independent writing.

Spelling

Please continue to work on the statutory spellings for year 3 and 4 that are in the back of your child's homework book. Weekly lists are sent home looking at particular spelling patterns and these can also be found on Spelling Shed. Those children working on Hornet or Toe by Toe should continue to do this regularly and use this as the basis for their spelling practice.

Reading

Please continue to read at home with your child at least five times a week, and record this in their reading record. The comprehension questions on the back of their reading record will support the discussions you can have with your child about their reading. These discussions are invaluable for developing your child's progress in reading. If your child needs to change their school reading book, they should do so when they arrive at school in the morning. In school, we are using Book Talk to enable all children to participate in group reading and discussion on a regular basis.

Mathematics

Please continue to support your child in learning their multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. A new timetable will be sent home listing the multiplication facts to learn each week and Ninja Maths will continue as before. There are plenty of apps available to reinforce times tables and number bonds and to help speed up children's knowledge. Repetition and practise is a key element to remembering them.

This term we will be looking at formal written methods of multiplication and division, measuring area, fractions and decimals.

Science

During the course of last term, Our Living things and their habitats topic was extended as we pursued the children's interest in all things animal to include animal's teeth. Therefore, this term we will now look at 'States of Matter' with a link to our text, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. After half term, we will focus on 'Sound'.

Topic

This term, our topic 'BIG' question is; "What is so amazing about America?" For the first half term we will be finding out about 'The Ancient Mayan Civilization' who lived in central America and after half term we will move to looking at the geography of North America.

ICT

In computing we will be using Scratch as a coding program and then looking at databases.

PE

This term, our indoor PE focus will be gymnastics for the first half term and then dance based on Native American Indian dance moves. Outdoors we will be developing our netball skills and taking part in the winter festival at Bottisham. Indoor PE will be on a **Friday afternoon** and Outdoor PE will be on a **Monday afternoon**.

RE

Our topic this term will be "Why is prayer so important for Muslims and not for some people?"

Art / Design Technology

Our topic started on the first day back with a Mayan day where children were invited to create some Mayan art. We looked at the Mayan art of sculpture and pottery and they either made a soap carving or a clay pot. We also created tortillas using a traditional Mayan recipe. After half term we hope to build Indian Totem poles.

Homework

- ✓ Weekly homework sheet will be set focusing on either maths or another areas of the curriculum (given out on a Wednesday and due in on a Monday). This might occasionally be a My Maths activity to be completed online.
- ✓ Weekly spellings (tested each Friday; lists will be given out weekly).
- ✓ Weekly times tables (tested each Friday; a termly timetable will be sent home).

Reading - Daily reading recorded in the reading record.

Important Dates

Important dates:

- Thursday 28th February 4A Busy Bees' Café 2pm – 3:15pm.
- Friday 1st March 4B Busy Bees' Café 2pm – 3:15pm.
- Tuesday 19th March Year 4 Production Dress Rehearsal 9:15am (parents welcome if cannot attend main performance).
- Wednesday 20th March Year 4 Production 1:45pm.
- Thursday 21st March Football Festival at Bottisham 9:15 – 12pm.

Term dates:

- Term begins Friday 4th January 2019
- Half term Monday 18th February – 22nd February
- End of term Friday 5th April

General Information.

School Uniform:

All clothing must be named: white or blue shirt; blue & white checked or striped dress; school sweatshirt, navy cardigan or sweater; grey trousers or shorts; navy skirt or trousers; flat black shoes. School uniforms can be ordered and paid for via the school website.

P.E. Kit (named please):

Indoor P.E. kit: blue or black shorts and plain/school logo white or navy blue t-shirt.

Outdoor P.E. kit to include warm top, tracksuit trousers and trainers.

If your child sometimes wears tights, please also include a pair of socks in their P.E. kit.

Earrings must be removed prior to P.E. lessons by the child or parents/ carers. Staff are not allowed to do this.

Water bottles are encouraged but need to be taken home and washed regularly.