



# Burwell Village College Primary School

Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Mrs Wesley and Miss Mansfield

## Introduction:

Welcome to Year 4! We are looking forward to an exciting year. We will be kicking off our exploration of the Amazon Rainforest by delving into the deep, dark jungle. Our class book – *Journey to the River Sea*, by Eva Ibbotson - links nicely to our topic.

The Y4 staff this year are:

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

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

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Saunders, Mrs Lemon, Mrs Doyle

## Autumn term - Rainforests

### English

We will be linking our writing this term to our rainforest topic and through the novel *Journey to the River Sea*. We will begin by writing non-chronological reports based on an Amazon animal.

### Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary

At the start of each English lesson we will have 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

Regular spelling sessions will take place focusing on the particular strands of the Year 3 and 4 curriculum. As part of the first homework set, we will be sending home a list of the statutory spellings which we advise you work on with your child over the year. As there are many words, we suggest you focus on a few words each week in addition to their set list.

### Handwriting

Handwriting is a key element of presentational skills. Children who have already achieved a pen license will continue to write in pen as long as the standard of their writing continues. We hope to give out many more over the course of the year.

### Reading

Reading is an extremely important skill that we must continue to develop in year 4. In school, the children will take part in guided reading groups with the teacher and will also complete independent comprehension tasks. Some children will also read 1:1 with an adult to support their reading development. The school expects children to read at home at least five times a week, and record this in their reading record. We want children of all abilities to develop a love and pleasure of reading. Please ensure that you monitor what your child is reading to ensure that it is an appropriate level of challenge for them. All children will benefit from reading aloud with an adult and discussing what they have read.

### Mathematics

The curriculum is split into: Number (Place Value, the four operations and Fractions), Measurement, Geometry (properties of shapes and position and direction) and Statistics. It is expected that all 'age expected' children should know and apply all their multiplication tables by the end of Y4. Therefore, we will be sending a timetable 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 to help speed up children's knowledge. Repetition and practise is a key element to remembering them.

We will be developing the children's knowledge of place value to include 4-digit and decimal numbers. We will also be covering calculation methods linked to the four operations (+, -, x and ÷) and applying these to increasingly challenging numbers. We will begin with mental methods and jottings and move on to formal written methods, some of which the children may have been introduced to in year 3.

### Science

This term's science topics are 'Living things and their habitats' and 'States of Matter'. We will endeavour to contextualise this, making links to our rainforest topic.

**Topic**

This term our topic is 'Rainforests'. We will be learning about rainforests around the world, the amazing creatures that inhabit them, the climate, the plants, the layers and the constant threat that they are under.

**ICT**

There is always a strong emphasis on staying safe using the internet, and we focus on this this half-term and throughout Y4.

**PE**

This term, our indoor PE focus will be 'rainforest dance' and our outdoor PE focus will be 'ball on ground skills and invasion games' along with practising our cross country running.

Indoor PE will be on a **Friday afternoon** and Outdoor PE will be on a **Monday afternoon**.

**RE**

Our topics this term are 'Festivals and Fasts' and 'The Church Year'. We will be learning about a variety of festivals celebrated by different religions, including Sukkot, Eid, Harvest Festival, Advent and Christmas.

**PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education)**

Our topics this term are 'Myself and My Relationships: Beginning and Belonging' and 'Be Friendly Be Wise'. We will be learning about how to make people feel welcome and valued in school. We will be learning how to solve problems we face at school, as well as learning how to manage our feelings.

**Art / Design Technology**

We hope that the classrooms will become alive with bright colours as we create different rainforest artwork. We will be doing an artist study of Henri Rousseau and creating our own work based on his painting style.

**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).
- ✓ 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 4<sup>th</sup> October Visiting author Stan Cullimore
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October Individual and family photographs
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Educational Visit to Cambridge Botanical Gardens
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 4B class assembly
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Years 3 and 4 Book night

**Term dates:**

- Half Term: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October Training Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Parent consultations
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December end of term.

## 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.