

Autumn in Year 4!

Welcome back!

I hope you had a lovely summer holiday!

For those parents/guardians who I have not had the opportunity to meet, I would like to introduce myself as your child's Year 4 class teacher. We are lucky to have Miss Adam supporting us in class too! Mr Nelson will have the class on a Thursday every other week.

We have some exciting learning coming up during this term: below is the key curriculum information for this term.

If you need any support, clarification or help at all please ask. Although I may not be able to help there and then, we can arrange a time for me to do so.

General Information:

PE will be on a Mondays & Thursdays each week.

If anyone has earrings or jewellery they must be removed or covered please.

Long Hair must be tied up or back please.

Homework:

Please hand books in on Thursday and they will be returned the following day with new homework.

We ask as much as possible that you support your children to complete their homework but do not complete it for them. It is important that the children start to become more independent for their later school life.

Children will be given a spelling test every week and new spellings will be sent home every Friday with their homework. Spelling tests will take place each Friday.

Maths homework will be set on Times Tables Rock Stars as well as an activity linking to our mental arithmetic focus the following week (log in details are inside each child's reading diary).

Reading:

As in previous years, the children will come home with an individual reading book, which is at an appropriate level for their stage in reading and changed weekly.

As always we ask for your support in reading with your children as much as possible.

They also have access to our online book library.

If you have lost/forgotten the details for this please tell me and I can find these details again for you.

Within class, each child will take part Guided Reading sessions every day to help develop reading and comprehension skills. The children will be exploring a range of texts including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. They will also be exploring extracts throughout these lessons taken from various styles of text, some they may not have explored before.

English:

In English, this term we will be looking at Greek Myths and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. I do ask that if you can avoid using these books at home please do. This allows the children to fully immerse themselves in the book and all learn at the same time. In our English lessons, the children will be developing their drafting and editing skills before completing a best version of their work.

SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) will be also be taught throughout English lessons. There is a huge emphasis on spelling as well as being able to understand and use the correct grammar and punctuation in Year 4 as with all other years. To support the spellings that the children will be completing at home, they will be completing activities each day across the week and building on skills throughout the year.

Spellings:

Each week the children will be bringing home a spelling list based on a specific spelling rule. It is important that the children practise their spellings at home. This will help inform their writing in English lessons and the pieces of work that they produce. Spelling tests will take place on a Friday with the scores being recorded in their spelling booklets.

Handwriting:

The children will have a handwriting lesson three times a week. They will focus on joining letters and developing stamina when writing. Children who show consistent neat handwriting may also receive a pen license which they can use in their books.

Maths:

In maths we will be covering:

Place Value
Addition and Subtraction
Area
Multiplication and Division.

In year 4, we complete a statutory Multiplication Times table Check (MTC). Children have to demonstrate they can recall their times tables quickly by answering questions on an online test. PLEASE do not panic about this! We have plenty of time to brush up on these skills. We will be asking you to support us in this by ensuring children complete the Times Table Rock Star challenges and activities to increase their fluency. This will aid their problem-solving and reasoning skills too.

Topic

History

Our autumn history topic will be Ancient Greeks. Children will learn about the Greek legacy and its impact on the modern world. Children will explore Greek architecture, how Ancient Greece was governed, Ancient Greek paintings and sculpture and the Olympic Games. We will also be reading some Greek Myths

Geography

For Geography, we will be looking at Maps. Children will be learning to read maps and atlases and interpret some of the symbols they may find on a variety of different map types.

Art

This half term, the children will be focussing on sketching. In this pathway children explore how we can create sequenced imagery to share and tell stories. The pathway starts by introducing two artists: one an illustrator and the other a graphic novelist and author. Children use sketchbooks to gather ideas from the way the artist's work. This will lead to the the creation of an accordion book inspired by a piece of literature, exploring how we can use drawing in an illustrative or even fine art sense to tell stories.

DT

Next half term, the children will be creating a healthy sandwich. This food project will help the children learn about healthy eating (including food groups, the proportion of food needed from different food groups, and composite dishes); seasonal ingredients; where some of their food comes from, and how to prepare a simple dish safely and hygienically.

Science

During this term, children will be looking at living things and their habitats.

This looks at how different animals can be grouped in different ways, using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. They will also recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

After half term, the children will move onto exploring electricity. They will construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers as well as exploring how different parts of the circuit will work based on how the circuit is constructed.

Music

A specialist music teacher will be coming into school to teach year 4 children how to play the P-Bone. It is a little bit like the trombone and children will be able to take these home for practise after October half term.

RE

In RE this term we will be exploring Judaism and Christianity. Within these religions we will be finding out about the relationship Jews have with God and what the significant parts of the nativity story are for Christians. Within class we hope to celebrate and learn about each other's religion, cultures and customs.

PSHE (Jigsaw)

To begin the new term the focus in PSHE will be based on the theme of 'Being me in my world'. This will support children in settling back into school after the summer as well as supporting children to adapt to year 4.

Computing

In computing this term, we will be learning about word processing. We will be expanding our basic computing skills to enable us to complete and create using a word processing programme. Throughout computing, the children will also be exploring online safety and how they can keep themselves online, we will be discussing key topics and talking about the impact of these on the children throughout their daily lives.

Please can you also ensure that your child brings multiple drink bottles to school with them every day along with a snack for break time.

Finally, If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or via Year4.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk – I will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible within working hours.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Mr Smith and Miss Adam.