

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 from Monday to Thursday each week! Mrs Stevens will have the class on a Tuesday 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:

The children will have swimming on Wednesdays each week from week 2. This means they will not have PE until spring term. A separate letter regarding this will be sent out in week 1.

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 Thursday.

We also encourage the children to practise their times tables via Times Table Rock Stars each week. TTRS recommend that they spend at least 21 minutes a week (or 3 minutes a day) on studio games to help them develop their recall speed. This is to support them with getting ready for the statutory multiplication test in June.

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.

They will also bring home a library book they have chosen themselves to help promote reading for pleasure. These books must be in school each Thursday for our library session.

Please note any damaged or missing books will result in a £5 charge

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

Within class, each child will take part in Whole Class 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. Thursday lessons will focus on developing their fluency and prosody when reading.

Our whole class reading text this half term will be “Boy at the Back of the Class” which is a emotion filled book exploring refugees.

English:

In English, this term we will begin by looking at the “Place Value of Punctuation” where the children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of various word classes and grammatical terms to help embed their basic skills to help support them throughout the year.

Later in the term we will be reading Escape from Pompeii 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 Thursday.

Handwriting:

The children will have a handwriting lesson three times a week. They will focus on letter formations and sizing as well as 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 must 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.

History

Our autumn history topic will be the Romans. Children will learn about the Roman legacy and its impact on the modern world. Children will explore a range of sources and develop their enquiry skills to help them learn more about the period.

Geography

For Geography, we will be looking at the UK. Children will be exploring the various counties within the UK and making comparisons between them, exploring both human and physical geographical features. They will also be developing their ability to use maps and compass points.

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 Animals including Humans, this will involve looking at the how the body works, digestion systems, identifying the different types of teeth. We will then look into predators and prey and construct food chains.

After half term, the children will move onto exploring sound, exploring how sound travels from its source to the ear.

Music

Miss Churchill will once again be coming into school to teach year 4 children how to play the P-Bone. It is a little bit like the trombone but made of plastic. This instrument builds on their skills learnt in years 2 and 3. The children will be able to take these home for practise after October half term.

This term we will be practising the songs ready for the Young Voices concert in January. More information on this will be sent out soon.

RE

In RE this term, we will be continuing to celebrate and learn about each other's religion, cultures and customs. This includes looking at exploring what makes us special and answering the question "Where do we belong?" as well as exploring the reason why Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas.

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 networks. We will explore how networks work and how information is sent through networks. 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