

Spring in Year 4!

Welcome back!

Happy new Year! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break.

Over the next term, children will be learning a variety of new skills and building on their previous ones. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned and cannot wait to see the progress your children make over the coming weeks.

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 Monday & Tuesday 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:

New homework goes out on a Friday.

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.

Maths homework will be set on Times Tables Rock Stars. It is recommended that the children spend **at least 21 minutes a week** on TTRS to develop their skills. Login details for this can be found in their homework book on the inside cover.

Reading:

In Whole Class Reading, we will be focusing the majority of our lessons on a book called It's a Wonderful World by Jess French. This is a non-fiction book which explores the world we live in. During spring 2, we will be looking at The Butterfly lion by Michael Morpurgo. We ask that the children do not read these texts at home to not spoil any surprises in the text..

English:

In English this half-term, we will be finishing our topic on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory before exploring a book called Leon and the Place Between by Grahame Baker Smith and Angela McAllister. This is an enchanting picture book which children are going to use to write their own versions of parts of the story. We will be using our descriptive skills to explore the setting Leon is in and finally moving on to writing instructional text, as the children will be teaching someone how to do a magic trick!

In Spring 2, we will be exploring a book called The Lost Happy Endings by Carol Anne Duffy, children will be exploring the suspense element of the story and using this to aid

their own writing. Over both half-terms we will be developing our writing, spelling and grammar skills.

As with last term, 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 as it was last half term. 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 continuing to bring 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 also continue to 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:

Statistics

Multiplication and Division

Fractions

A reminder that 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 still 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.

Geography

For Geography, we will be looking at the UK. Children will be learning to read maps and exploring the different counties regions that make up the UK.

After half term, we will be making comparisons between the UK and Russia. They will be looking at where Russia is located and compare its physical and human features with the UK. Later in the topic, we will look at the Biomes of Russia and the 6 main climates across the world.

Art

This half term, the children will be looking at still art. They will explore a range of still life artists, both contemporary and from the 16th century. Throughout the topic the children will explore how they can use drawing, painting and collage skills to create still life images. They will finish the topic by using their still life art to create tiles out of clay.

DT

Next half term, the children will be looking at electrical systems. The children will be using their computing skills where they will be coding using crumbles to create their own night light for a child.

Science

For science this half term we be looking at States of Matter. This will involve exploring how we know things are a solid, liquid or a gas. We will be using our investigative skills to decide how states change and whether these changes are reversable. We will also be looking into how the water cycle works.

In spring 2, we will be looking at National Science Week, completing focus lessons based upon this year's theme.

Music

The children will continue with their music lessons on a Tuesday Morning. The children will continue to develop their skills when playing the P-bone as well as taking part in opportunities to sing as part of a group.

RE

We will be revisiting the Judaism religion this half term. We will be exploring the question of "What is it like to be Jewish?" by identifying some Jewish beliefs about God, sin and forgiveness and describing what they mean. We will also be make clear links between the story of the Exodus and Jewish beliefs about God and His relationship with the Jewish people

In spring 2, we will be focusing again on Christianity. We will be exploring the question "Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday?'" We will be recognising the word 'Salvation', and understanding that Christians believe Jesus came to 'save' or 'rescue'

people as well as giving examples of what Christians say about the meaning and importance of the events of Holy Week.

PSHE (Jigsaw)

For PSHE this half-term we will be discussing our hopes and dreams. We will also be working on our resilience and how to bounce back when things do not go to plan.

During our second half term, we will be moving onto looking at being healthy. This will look at eating a healthy diet, the benefits of exercise as well as creating and maintaining healthy friendships.

Computing

In computing this half term term, we will begin our first of two coding topics for this year. They will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.

In spring 2, the children will be using computers for sorting and inputting data when using a data logger. The children will be using Micro-bits to support them with this.

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 this term ahead.

Mr Smith, Miss Adam and Miss Blunn.