

Autumn Term Newsletter

Year 4 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! 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 teacher and Miss Adam as our learning support practitioner. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and you are ready to begin working hard in year 4, especially after such a long time out of school. We have some exciting learning coming up during this term, below is the key curriculum information for this term. We will do our very best to help your child settle in to their new class and have as much fun as possible. If you ever have any worries or concerns, please do let us know so we can rectify them or reassure you.

English

We will be exploring a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts during the autumn term. Fiction texts will include Myths and Legends: Odysseus and the Cyclops, Leon and the Place Between and The Polar Express. Children will be exploring instructions, narrative writing, descriptive writing, list poems and direct speech. Exploring these texts will allow children to develop a range of English skills. Guided reading will continue to take place each week and home reading books will be given to each pupil. Please remember to record any reading in your child's reading record where possible.

Maths

The topics that will be covered in maths during the autumn term are:

- ✓ Place value
- ✓ Addition and Subtraction
- ✓ Multiplication and division
- ✓ Length and Perimeter

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.

Geography

TBC

Science

Living things and their habitats - Children will be studying the characteristics of living things and the basic needs their habitats supply. Children will recognise that environments change and will understand classification of plants and animals.

Animals including humans – Children will be studying food groups and balanced diets, the human digestive system and how food is transported around the body, teeth, diets of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores as well as looking at food chains and webs.

French

Children will learn to pronounce, write and read French vocabulary based around the themes playtime and my home. Children will engage with language through catchy songs and illustrated stories.

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PE

PE will be led by myself and the PE coach, Mr Foreman. These will take place on a Thursday morning and a Friday afternoon. It would be appreciated if you could ensure that your child is wearing their PE kits in school on these days as PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Unfortunately, we had plans to take year 4 pupils swimming during the Autumn term but due to the current climate, the swimming lessons will not take place this half term. We are hoping that the swimming centre will provide this opportunity after half term but we will update you as and when we know more.

Music

I am very excited about our music lessons this year! A specialist music teacher will be coming into school to teach year 4 children using activities suitable for the restrictions made by the Government guidance.

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.

PSHE

To begin the new term the focus in PSHE will be based about 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

This term the children will be learning how to develop their coding skills by learning how to use a series of instructions to programme a simple sprite. Although we will promote online safety as an ongoing theme, during the second half term, we will be looking much deeper into staying safe online. We will also use subscription platforms, such as Curriculum Visions, Purple Mash and Times Tables Rock Stars to support learning across the curriculum.

Art

This term our art focus will be studying textures and pattern in art. There will be lots of opportunities to create flip and geometric patterns, printing from plasticine, mark making with various media, making optical illusions and recreating willow patterns.

DT

For DT in year 4, we will be investigating, designing and making toys with pneumatic systems to create movements.

Homework

Homework will be handed out on Fridays and should be returned by the following Wednesday. It is important that it is returned on this day please.

Children will be given a spelling test every week and new spellings will be sent home every Friday with their homework.

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Maths homework will be set on Times Tables Rock Stars (log in details remain the same as for last year but if you require a copy, please let me know.).

Each term, a thematic project will be set to work on and return to school by a given date. Please be as creative as possible with these projects, they are great to see and display for everyone to see.

Please ensure that your child brings two drinks to school with them. Due to restrictions, we no longer have access to the water fountain.

If you have any questions or concerns about year 4 please do not hesitate to contact us. I look forward to the year ahead and hope it will be lots of fun.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Mrs Whitehurst and Miss Adam