

Year 4 Autumn Term 1, Newsletter, 2023



Dear Year 4 Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to joining us for a fun-filled and productive year together.

Teaching Staff:

To confirm, I – Mrs Hael – will be the main class teacher and I will be in every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs Keedwell and Mrs Matthias will be my able assistants at different points throughout the week. Mr Coggins, Mr Sage and Mrs Johnson, will also be teaching their specialist subjects every Thursday, who the children are already familiar with. It may sound confusing but it has proved very successful and a great opportunity for the children to experience different teachers and their individual learning styles and interests, in preparation for their next school.

Here is an overview of some of the things that we will be covering in each curriculum area this half term, we hope you find this helpful.

English

Our first writing topic in Year 4 will be Newspaper reports, where children will learn the necessary skills and presentational devices to write their own news stories. This will follow the Talk for Writing concept, using our model text, 'Tornado Destroys Local Houses'. Their independent write at the end of the unit will be based on a beautiful book related to this term's topic, 'Escape From Pompeii' by Christina Balit. Following this, the children will be focussing on a warning story, using our model text, 'Keep off the Tracks' and this will be a piece of short burst writing. The children will be focussing on several key grammar terms including how to punctuate direct speech; the value of using powerful verbs; and how to use a thesaurus effectively. In addition to this, the children will have the opportunity to write an informal letter to their new Reception buddy, which is always a highlight!

Maths

Firstly, we will be reviewing column addition and subtraction in order to find out what the children currently know and ensure they are ready to learn the Year 4 objectives. After that, we will be moving on to exploring numbers up to 10,000 and following a mastery approach to understand their place value.. In addition to the daily maths hour, we will also be doing daily mental maths sessions which will focus on the quick recall of basic number facts including times tables up to 12 x 12. Please encourage and support your children with learning the times tables as it is so fundamental to every other area of maths and they will be given a national multiplication check test in June - we will provide more information about this closer to the time. There are a variety of ways to practise these, for example TT Rockstars, making posters and there are various apps available such as, DK 10-minute a day challenges. For further details or ideas please ask.

Science

This half term's topic will be Animals Including Humans, focussing on 'what happens to food?'. The children will be learning all about teeth and the digestive system through a variety of ways. They will also be developing their scientific vocabulary and will be able to describe the journey of food from the mouth through to its departure... I am sure this will lead to some 'interesting' tea-time discussions! I have attached a knowledge organiser for this topic, so you are able to discuss the key vocabulary with your child.





History

Our history topic this term will be *'How did Britain change between the end of the Iron Age and the end of the Roman occupation?'*. This is a really interesting topic and has plenty of opportunity for cross curricular learning. We will be looking at how Britain changed as a result of Roman occupation. Through our class trip to Carymoor (dates and details to follow shortly) and our homework project, the children will also be able to imagine what life would have been like, including where the Roman's settled and their invasions—considering the impact this also had on the Celts; how they lived; Roman roads; and Hadrian's Wall and why it was built. Art and DT will also play a large part in bringing this topic to life. I have attached a knowledge organiser for this topic, so you are able to discuss the key vocabulary with your child.

RE

Our Christian value this term is 'Thankfulness'. Throughout the week, our class services will be centred around this value. We will be reading stories from the bible about thankfulness and we will be completing a variety of activities to reflect on this. In our RE lessons, we will be looking at the Creation story and what this means in the Christian faith. Through this unit, the children will be creating work for our class reflection area.

PSHE

Our PSHE focus this half term will be focussing on 'Being Me In The World'. This will be continuing to follow the Jigsaw program of work. We will start by looking at how the children perceive their position within our class and the importance of respecting each other's ideas and values, before moving on to look at their family roles, friendships and comparing feelings with others around the world.

PE

PE days are Wednesdays and Thursdays. This half term the children will be doing Tag Rugby on a Thursday with Mr Coggins and Swimming on a Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Hael. Please send me a message on dojo stating how confident your child currently is at swimming so I can arrange them into appropriate groups. A separate letter will go out about swimming but please ensure the children have the correct kit for each day. Please be mindful as the weather gets cooler, that they will need warm clothing and preferably a waterproof jacket as we will be outside as much as possible. There will be many sporting opportunities for Year 4 this year, details of fixtures will be sent out as soon as they have been arranged/ decided.

Homework

Homework will be sent out on a Friday and should be submitted by the following Wednesday, in order to give me enough time to mark it.

The children will be given a *Maths workbook*, linked to times tables. Each week the page number will be put on Class Story on a Friday. In addition to this, I will add *spelling homework* to Class Story and I will give the children an exercise book to complete this work in. Please take a photo of this work and submit it on Class Story by the following Wednesday or bring in the books to mark.

Class Readers – we will be sending home books asap. Over the next few weeks we will be listening to each of the children to make sure their previous level is still appropriate for them and will amend where necessary. Please encourage the children to read regularly as this will make a huge difference to their overall learning.

As well as this, in Year 4 we will introduce a *topic-based homework project*, which will be explained and handed out soon. An award ceremony will be held to celebrate the children's achievements with this. Any issues with homework please let us know.

I look forward to productive and successful year with you all. If you have questions or queries please do contact me via Dojo or pop in to the classroom.

Kindest regards

Holly Hael

