

# Spring Term 1

## YEAR 4, NEWSLETTER

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a relaxing and happy Christmas break with your friends and family. Hopefully, all those New Year's Resolutions are going well and you are looking forward to some routines back in life again. I have outlined here some of the key points of the curriculum the children will be working on this half term, but please ask if you need anything clarifying.

### English

In English this term, the children will be learning skills to write effective openings for a tale of fear, learning how to use techniques to develop suspense. We will be using the structure of Talk for Writing, using 'Zelda Claw' by Pie Corbett, as our model text. After this, we will be looking at a classic fairy tale and the children will be using this to create some short burst writing focused on settings. Through these units of writing, we will be developing our understanding of grammar including fronted adverbials, commas, expanded noun phrases, powerful verbs, ambitious adjectives and subordinating and coordinating conjunctions. Lots of opportunities to be creative and explore individual styles of writing.

### Maths

The quick recall of timestable facts will be a key focus this half term. On our return, the children will be completing a baseline quiz to assess what they already know and enable me to identify their gaps. Thereafter, they will be completing daily timestable challenges and a timestable test every 2 weeks to challenge their progress. This is in preparation for **the National Multiplication Check** in June but more importantly, it is a vitally important to know these number facts as it will make all aspects of maths more accessible. Please encourage the use of TT rockstars and other games at home to practice their timestables. In other areas of maths, initially we will be learning about perimeter and incorporating the properties of 2d shapes. After that, we will be looking at the relationship between the 3, 6 and 9 times table and how their knowledge can be used to solve problems. This will then lead into the 7-times table as well. This highlights how multiplication and division are linked, and has already emphasised to many how important table knowledge is for solving problems.

### Science

In Science, we will be learning about 'Sound' and will be considering the following questions: How do our ears work? What happens to sound as it travels away from its source? What do we mean by 'pitch' and 'vibration' in relation to sound? and How do telephones work? An interesting topic with a good balance of practical and theory based learning.

### Homework

Homework is still sent out every Friday and needs to be returned the following Wednesday in order for me to mark and send back out again. Please send a message on class dojo if you need any clarification with the homework. The weekly homework consists of Spellings and Maths.

There will also be a topic-based homework project, related to our history topic, The Ancient Greeks, of which details will follow shortly.

We also encourage that children are returning their home readers as much as possible so they are reading consistently. Please keep up the joy of reading.



### History

Did you know that the marathon came from the Ancient Greeks? It is believed that a man called Pheidippides ran 26 miles from Marathon to Athens. He wanted to announce the news of the victory of the battle of Marathon. This is where the race comes from and why it is so long! In history this term, we will be finding out about the amazing Ancient Greeks, through their history, art and DT lessons, as well as an extended homework project. Details of the homework project will follow shortly.

### RE

For RE we shall be studying the importance of Gospel and what it actually means. We will be thinking about how Christians spread 'good news' whether it be back as far as the disciples, or more currently how churches and groups nowadays deliver positivity to those around them. The children will learn about the meaning of 'Agape' and what it means to 'love your neighbour'.

Our whole school Christian value this half term is 'respect'. We will discuss what this means to us in our class services, but of course, it is important to continually refer to it whenever possible. We will add to our mini prayer tree in the classroom as part of reflection time in class services.

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*This term's Christian Value is 'Respect'. From now on, one of our Merit Badge awards will be given for academic success/ effort and the other for someone promoting our Christian Value.*

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### PSHE

During our Friday afternoon well-being time, the children will continue to learn topics through our Jigsaw scheme of work, which this term will focus on our 'Hopes and Dreams'. We allow children to share their hopes and dreams, and discuss how a goal can give you direction. They will understand how to develop steps towards their goals and that it can take time to get where you want to be. However, possibly more importantly, it's also about understanding hopes and dreams don't always come true, and how that can lead to disappointment. Don't worry though - the point of this is to look at how you need to reflect on happy and positive experiences to counteract disappointment! Tied into this will be discussion on the resetting of goals to move forward purposefully. Alongside the Jigsaw learning, we will be doing a variety of mindfulness and well-being activities appropriate to their age. This is a whole school approach so we will take opportunities to share learning as a whole school wherever possible.

### PE

PE this term will be on a Wednesday and Thursday each week. We have our final swimming session next week (10.1.2024). It is obviously often a cold half term, but it's also important to be outside where possible, so please make sure they have their warm jumper and waterproofs at the ready. The sports will be Hockey on a Wednesday and Netball on a Thursday.

Although this half term doesn't have the excitement of Christmas, it can be a rewarding term as we always seem to get so much hard work done. The children are well settled and have come back in a super frame of mind. We look forward to working hard, achieving lots together and looking forward to the first signs of Spring.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes,

Mrs Hael and Mrs Keedwell