

Year 4

Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back after the Christmas break. I hope you had a restful time and that the children are ready for a great start to the new year.

English

We'll begin this half term by writing a narrative based on a journey. This will then be followed by an explanation text. Children will write about their own invention and explain how it works.

Individual reading and shared reading lesson will continue, along with spelling and handwriting lessons.

Maths

Children will continue learning how to use formal methods of multiplication and division. We will use short multiplication to multiply 3 digits and 1 digit numbers. Children need as much practise of times tables as possible to feel confident with this unit. Please encourage your child to access Time Tables Rockstars at least 3 times per week at home to develop their multiplication and division facts.

We will then move on to learn how to find the area of shapes.

To finish the half term, children will build on their knowledge of fractions. This unit introduces the concept of mixed numbers and improper fractions, where children will explore what happens when a fraction is more than 1 (the numerator is greater than the denominator).

Science

Our unit this half term is *Living Things*. Children will learn how to group living things in a variety of ways, using classification keys to help identify and group plants and animals. This will include grouping vertebrate animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; and invertebrates into snails and slugs, worms, spiders, and insects. We will also explore the positive and negative human impact on living things and recognise that environments can change.

Art

This unit is based on *sculptures*. After gaining inspiration from other artists, children explore formal drawing and sculpture skills like line, mark making, shape, form, balance and structure. They will also explore how they can appreciate a sense of challenge, and a feeling of trying things out without fear of failure or "wrong or right"

Class Teacher

Mr Davies

Year 4 Staff

Mrs Patterson, Ms Selby,

Mrs Tordoff, Mrs Long

P.E. *

Monday

**Children should bring PE kit in a bag to get changed at school.*

Swimming

Wednesday

Spellings

Spellings will be given on a Friday, to be learned for a test on the following Friday.

Homework

Reading x4 per week

Times Tables Rockstars x3 per week

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 10th February

Supper for Peace, after school in the hall

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February

Last day of term

Monday 23rd February

Back to school

History

Our history topic this term is *Invaders and settlers*. Children will learn about the Anglo-Saxon era from 449CE – 1066CE. They will learn how and why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain, exploring how their language and culture has impacted ours today. They will also study the raids and settlement of the Vikings in Britain, using a range of historical sources.

PE

Monday – PE

Wednesday – Y4 Swimming (This is our last half term of swimming in Y4.)

Children must bring their PE kit to school in a bag to get changed into. All clothing must be clearly labelled with the child's full name. Please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit as listed below:

- plain white t-shirt
- black/blue shorts or leggings
- suitable footwear (trainers or outdoor pumps)

Year 4 children must also bring a swimming kit on Wednesdays. All children will need to bring a swimming kit containing:

- swimming costume (one piece swimming costume for girls) or swimming trunks /swimming shorts
- towel
- hairbrush/comb - optional
- goggles – optional
- bobble to tie hair back

Reading

We ask that children read their school reading book or another text that sparks their interest, at least four times each week. For children who are avid readers, we also have a wide range of exciting books in the classroom book corner that children can take home to read.

Children can read either with an adult or independently and must get their home reading record signed by an adult each time they have read. Children should bring their reading book and reading record to school each day and put their book into the basket.

Homework

Children will be given spellings on a Friday and tested the following Friday. Please encourage your child to learn and practise their **spellings** each week. Children do not have to hand in their spelling homework sheet.

Homework will be set online via **Times Tables Rockstars**, which is a fun and interactive way for children to develop division and multiplication facts. Children should practise their times tables online at least three times each week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Best wishes,

Mr Davies