

Year 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a fantastic Easter and time as a family to rest and have fun. As the coming weeks and months are beginning to look brighter in so many ways, we have many things to look forward to in school too. The summer terms are always ones that are action packed and full of fun. Here is a summary of the learning that we will be covering during Terms 5 and 6.

In English this term, we will be studying a range of different texts: a cultural text - *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*; a non-fiction text - *The Street Beneath my Feet* and a graphic novel - *Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf*. During Term 6, we will be using the first in the Harry Potter series - *The Philosopher's Stone*. Using these high quality texts as our inspiration, we will continue to write in a range of formal and informal genres, using more complex sentence structures and increasingly advanced vocabulary and punctuation. With this in mind, it is vital that children keep up their daily reading and learning of their spellings, to complement their writing and extend their working vocabulary.

In Maths, we have lots of existing concepts to embed and revise, and new concepts to learn and expand upon. We will continue to look at the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, using both mental and formal calculation methods, to extend the children's existing understanding. In addition to this, we will also be learning about decimals (tenths and hundredths) and applying this to money, along with developing our knowledge of time, statistics and shape. Instant recall of times tables remains important, as this forms the basis of much of the curriculum in Year 4 and looking forward to next year. While we will continue to focus on times tables regularly in class, please continue to practise at home too.

Science this term is all about Animals (including humans) and extends to all living things in Term 6. Our learning will include teeth and the digestive system, along with food chains. Both topics will involve lots of practical experiments and interesting learning opportunities to extend upon children's existing knowledge base.

In History we are focusing on the changes overtime in our local city Rochester. We will be learning about the city's origin and changes during the Celtic, Roman and Victorian period. Our topic will include a focus on the Castle, Cathedral and Charles Dickens. It should prove to be an exciting and interesting topic.

In Geography next term, we will be looking at settlements and looking at where and why settlements are located where they are.

In Art we will be concentrating on the Renaissance and work of Leonardo Di Vinci. We will study his work and portrait techniques to create our own sketches using shading, cross hatching and blending. Improving our observation skills and using a pencil in different ways will help to create depth and perspective within pictures and paintings.

Our RE for the remainder of the year we will be focusing on why festivals are important to religious communities. We will learning about Easter, Diwali in Hinduism, Pesach in Judaism and Eid ul Fitr in Islam. This unit will enable the children to begin to understand how celebration reminds believers of key beliefs and gives time to focus on beliefs and commitments and celebrating as a believing

community. We will also cover the key question; 'Why do some people think that life is a journey?' and will cover significant experiences that mark this.

In French we will carry on with our fun, interactive Tout le Monde programme!

PE will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays and will focus on indoor and outdoor based activities, so please ensure children have a suitable kit for all weathers and a pair of trainers that fit. Come rain or shine we do go outside, therefore with our weather being so unreliable, please ensure during these two terms the children have appropriate outdoor clothing. The children will be developing their skills in dance, tennis and athletics.

In PSHE our unit of work is about health and wellbeing. The children will consider what it means to take responsibility for their own safety. This will include the decisions they make and how they can stand up to peer pressure in a range of situations. They will learn about everyday risks, hazards and dangers and what to do in risky or dangerous situations. We will also be looking at aspects of staying safe and minimising personal risk.

For your information, the children's homework timetable will remain as follows -

Day	Activity	Due in
Monday	<p>Read and discuss the book/ answer questions about the text with an adult (for at least 15 minutes)</p> <p>A Maths, English or topic based task, lasting up to 40 minutes.</p> <p>Handwriting that has not been completed in class.</p>	<p>Reading records checked daily</p> <p>Next Monday</p> <p>Thursday</p>
Tuesday	<p>Read and discuss the book/ answer questions about the text with an adult (for at least 15 minutes)</p>	
Wednesday	<p>Read and discuss the book/ answer questions about the text with an adult (for at least 15 minutes)</p> <p>Children to complete their spelling contract work and practise their spelling.</p>	Thursday
Thursday	<p>Read and discuss the book/ answer questions about the text with an adult (for at least 15 minutes)</p> <p>Spelling test in class today! Spelling contracts given in.</p>	
Friday	<p>Read and discuss the book/ answer questions about the text with an adult (for at least 15 minutes)</p> <p>New spellings given. Spelling contract tasks.</p>	<p>Spellings tested each Thursday</p>

As always, I would like to reiterate that your continued encouragement and support is vital to your child's success. School and home should be a partnership working together to support your children in their learning and to maximise their success, therefore should you or your child have any worries or problems please do not hesitate to contact me. I am certain that we will have another fantastic term and I look forward to helping your child achieve their goals.

Many thanks
Mrs Joshua