



Tuesday 7th January 2020

Year 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you all; I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and a well-deserved rest. May I take this opportunity to thank you all *on behalf of Mrs Dancer, Mrs Merry, Mrs Snow and myself*, for your incredible generosity and all the lovely cards and presents we received. I was very touched - thank you so very much.

Here is a summary of the learning that we will be covering during Terms 3 and 4.

In English this term we will begin by exploring **Varjak Paw** by SF Said, as the basis and stimulus for our writing. In addition, we will be using the graphic novel **Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf** by David Almond and **Billy the Kid** by Michael Morpurgo, so I am confident the children will enjoy English immensely this term. We will be continuing to write in a range of formal and informal styles, 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.

The certificated 'Reading Challenge' - *to read daily with an adult for 10 to 15 minutes* - will continue this term. I would like to reiterate the importance of fluent, able reading and even when children can read fluently, they should still be heard by an adult to ensure their understanding of the text and language acquisition is constantly improving. We already have a few children who have moved onto their yellow certificate and I am sure there will be many more joining

them soon. We do check reading records and signatures daily, so please ensure that an adult signs to show each time your child reads and discusses the text with you.

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; practising and refining the methods so that they can use and apply the most efficient method. Fractions and decimals will also be covered in great depth during Terms 3 and 4. Quick recall of times tables will become even more important as the year progresses and it is important that your child knows all their times tables by heart, along with the corresponding division facts up to 12×12 . For example - 6 times 7 is 42 so there are 7 groups of 6 in 42. We will focus on times tables daily in the class, but this is something that could easily be practised for 5 minutes every day at home too. Times tables, along with telling the time and handling money at home will help to support our classroom learning. In addition, **Mathletics** is a fun and interactive way that your child can consolidate their learning and develop Year 4 skills. Where possible please encourage your child to use this program as regularly as they can.

The 'Parent Factor' homework has been greatly received during Terms 1 and 2 and I thank you for your support with completing these. I love reading both your and your child's comments in response to the tasks. We will continue to send a range of these home over the coming terms.

Science this term is all about electricity and will involve lots of practical experiments to assess how electrical circuits work and the effects of different component parts on the circuit. Electricity is a really hands-on topic that children will enjoy immensely. Term 4 promises to be just as exciting as we will be learning about states of matter - solids, liquids and gases. We explore the properties of each and find how each can change state.

In Geography next term we will be learning about rivers, in particular the River Thames. We will be locating river on maps of the UK, exploring how rivers are formed and their uses. In term 4 our geography learning will focus on Italy as a contrasting locality to the UK - sadly no field trips are planned! We will investigate the physical and human geography of Italy and its surrounding countries. This will include a focus on rivers, mountains, climate and volcanoes. This will also link to our Design and Technology as during Term 4 we will be making our own Italian inspired food. It should prove to be an exciting and interesting topic.

In Art we will be looking closely at various abstract artists; Klee, Mondrian and Kandinsky. We will begin by trying to imitate their style and then try to use their work to stimulate our own ideas.

In RE this term, our learning will focus on right and wrong, and how religions try to influence our choices in this. We will explore and compare the 'golden rule' in Christianity, Judaism and Humanism. After reflecting upon the Ten Commandments, we will learn how religious teachings have helped to influence the actions of inspirational people.

In Computing we will be becoming meteorologists. This unit brings together data measurement, analysis and presentation, as the children take on the role of meteorologists and weather presenters. In Term 4, we will be developing our recording and editing skills to become musicians. Working together in a group, we will create and refine, through editing, a piece of backing music to accompany work in another medium.

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

PE will be on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Thursdays, and will include an outdoor session so please ensure that your child has a suitable kit for the cold weather. A spare pair of socks and a plastic bag for their muddy trainers would be a useful addition to PE kits. As you know, come rain or shine we do go outside, so please ensure during these colder terms that your child has appropriate waterproof outdoor clothing. This term we will be developing our basketball skills. For our indoor PE, circuit training, a pair of shorts will also be needed. Our PE days can change so please ensure that your child has their kit in school every day. Also as part of our whole school priority on healthy lifestyles, we will continue to 'walk a mile' each Wednesday. Again warm waterproof clothing, wellies and spare socks will be needed each Wednesday please.

PSHE will be looking at the importance of understanding money. Our lesson will focus on what interest, loans, debt and taxes are. We will explore both the positives and negatives associated with each area with the aim of developing our understanding of how to manage money in the wider world. As always we will be focusing on our school's TRUST values, developing our understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects even further.

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

Day	Activity	Due in
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed. A Maths, English or topic based task, lasting up to 40 minutes. Handwriting that has not been completed in class. 	Reading records checked daily Next Monday Thursday
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed. 	
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed. Children to complete their spelling contract work and practise their spelling. 	Thursday
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed. Spelling test in class today! Spelling contracts given in. 	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed. New spellings given. Spelling contract tasks. 	Spellings tested each Thursday

While homework is always based upon concepts introduced and practised in class, should your child experience any problems or difficulties with their homework, please encourage them to tell me and I will happily spend time with them again.

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 concerns 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