

## Year 4 Autumn Term Newsletter

### Welcome

We hope you had a lovely summer and a well-earned rest. The Year 4 team would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Year 4. The class has settled in really well and we are excited to be teaching, supporting and working with you and your children this year.

Please can we take this opportunity to ask that you take time each week to read our Peek of The Week, which will include a snippet of the week aheads learning and key information – it is so important!

### Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

Our class topic this term is 'Rainforests'. The children will learn where in the world we can find rainforests, what types of animals they will find there and we will make a 3D rainforest diorama, which they will soon be constructing using man-made and natural materials to explore the rainforest layers. We will continue to learn more about the habitat and weather patterns and practice our geographical skills using digital maps and atlases. The children will also be looking at climate zones & biomes.

Our topic work will also consider the Fairtrade movement, its history and influence. We will also cover the impact of deforestation on the local environment and the planet.

### Mathematics

We have started the term with open-ended maths enquiries and games to provide children with opportunities for talk and discussion, building resilience and embracing misconceptions as opportunities for learning. This term starts with a focus on number and place value, including ordering, comparing and rounding numbers. We will also concentrate on mental arithmetic strategies, teaching children effective methods and memorising number facts and practising numerous core skills. Children will problem solve using written calculations and regularly practice their times tables – this is where you can help at home, either by providing access to Times Tables Rock Stars or using games or flashcards to memorise their tables to 12x. In addition to this, regular practice of the 4 operations (+-x ÷) will support pupils across wider aspects of the mathematics curriculum and is therefore crucial. Later in the term, we will explore fractions and formal written methods for calculation and apply these calculation skills across various contexts and real-life situations.


### English

This term the children will be engaging with some new and exciting units as part of our updated English Curriculum. These will include:

- a Graphic Novel with a focus on, 'Arthur and the golden rope'
- a Persuasive Speech with a focus on, 'The King who banned the dark'
- a Free Verse Poem with a focus on, 'A Small Dragon by Brian Pattern'
- an Explanation with a focus on, 'Until I met Dudley' and 'How everything works'
- a Narrative story with a focus on. 'Starbird' and 'Zeraffa Giraffa'

Meanwhile, they will also continue to develop their phonic knowledge to improve their spelling and writing across the curriculum and be encouraged and taught how to improve their joined-up handwriting.

Library day is **Friday**, so please return library books on or before that day. Reading should be logged regularly at home and school using BoomReader please. We will read regularly with children 1:1 and during group Guided Reading sessions each week to monitor progress, check their reading band, and ensure children are challenged with comprehension. Your children are developing into fluent readers, and you can help by asking deeper questions about the text to check their level of understanding. Please ask for advice about this if required but do use the bookmark given to you at the Meet The Teacher Meeting.



## Other Core Subjects

**Science:** the first topic we will explore this term will be 'Living things and their Habitats', specifically classification of animals and the study and exploration of their habitats and why animals live in specific habitats. The final topic of Autumn term will be on 'Sound'. We will learn about sound vibrations, pitch and volume and experimenting with objects and instruments to learn how patterns in sounds can change.

**Art:** We will explore art work inspired by the rainforest and later explore sculptures, creating our own sculptures from a variety of materials including soap, wire, and recycled materials.

**D&T:** In the first half term we will be creating our Rainforest Dioramas and then in the second half term we will be exploring the world of biscuits in our 'Adapting a Recipe' Unit.

**MFL - French:** we will learn vocabulary relating to 'Presenting Myself' and 'Family'.

**Computing:** We begin with the unit 'Computing systems – Collaborative Learning' where the children will use Google Slides and Google Docs to work collaboratively. We will then move onto the unit 'Programming' where we will use the exciting program of Scratch. Throughout the year we also complete Online Safety Lessons at the end of each half term.

**PE:** Premier Sports will be focusing on net and wall games in Autumn 1 and Multi skills in Autumn 2. With the class teacher, the children will be taking part in swimming in Autumn 1 and then will move to gymnastics in Autumn 2 (please see the communication from the Office regarding Swimming).

**PSHCE:** During the first part of the term, we will revise the Zones of Regulation and set up our Class Council. We will generate a class charter and follow Kapow lessons linked to 'Families and Relationships. During the second part of the term we will explore anti-bullying.

**Music:** we are excited to link our music learning to our exciting topic work this term. We will begin with looking at 'Body and tuned percussion' with a Rainforest theme. Next half term we will move onto the exciting, 'Samba and carnival sounds and instruments' with a South America theme.

**RE:** in year 4, children study two religions, Hinduism and Sikhism, alongside Christianity. This term we will focus on beliefs and practices, symbols and actions and identity and belonging. This will include time spent celebrating Harvest festival and Christmas.

## Messages

Each week, after school on a Friday, a weekly overview called our 'Peek of the Week' will be posted onto google classroom. This contains the next weeks key dates and learning and will also contain the next weeks spelling rules to explore with your child over the weekend, as well as other homework suggestions. Please refer to the 'Meet the teacher' presentation emailed to you for weekly homework expectations.

PE days are Wednesday (Premier) and Friday (class teacher), although this will change for Autumn 1 only when swimming commences on a Thursday. PE kits will be returned home after half term for washing, unless they get particularly dirty! Please make sure PE kits and other uniform is named: tops and jumpers often get misplaced. Children will need suitable indoor and outdoor clothes in their PE kit, especially when the weather gets colder as we will be outside most of the time. **Please make sure PE kit is in school for every lesson.**

Please can you provide a water bottle every day.

If you have any questions, please contact the office or ask a member of the Year 4 staff after school. Thank you for reading. We are really looking forward to a successful and happy term!

Best wishes

Miss Allworth and Miss Hurst (Mon-Tue) & Mrs Furr and Miss Mitchell (Wed – Fri)