



# Year 4 Spring Term Newsletter

## **Welcome**

Happy New Year from the Year 4 team! We hope everyone has had a restful break and is looking forward to another exciting and very busy term. We know the children are excited to practise and perform the Year 3 and 4 play at the end of term, and rehearsals will start soon. We will send scripts home after parts have been cast, and information about costumes will follow – very exciting!

## **Ashwell Learning Journey Topic**

Our class topic this term is 'Local Land Use'. This is mainly a geographic topic looking at physical and human features of the UK. We will begin by learning some key UK locations and regions. We will also learn about UK population growth and urban development, and the effect of this on the natural world. There is an exciting opportunity to complete a field work study where we will get out about in the village! We will be practicing sketch, and this will lead to opportunities to problem solve with compass directions and orienteering.

## **Mathematics**

Maths lessons this term will cover measure, perimeter, interpretation of data and graphs, decimal numbers, money, fractions (including fractions of quantities and measures). Later during the term we will explore our knowledge of 2D shape, including names and properties of the various quadrilaterals and triangles and investigate symmetry. We will also extensively cover formal written multiplication and division methods as part of our weekly arithmetic lessons. Long division is taught in detail before short division, and children are taught to learn when each method is more useful.

With each maths topic, we will learn how to use reasoning and problem-solving skills while encouraging the use of verbal and written explanations. Mistakes and misconceptions are positively handled and help to build resilience for maths, which is vital as the learning gets more challenging throughout the school.

This term there will be extra emphasis on learning times table facts ready for the Multiplication Tables Check in June. Children are required to know all their tables up to 12 x 12, and they will need your support at home in order to achieve this. Please do utilise TTRockstars and watch out for additional materials via Google Classroom which will be available to your child over the coming months.

## **English**

Our Essentials Writing Units this term will include: a narrative based on the beautiful book 'Starbird'; an exciting newspaper report based on real life mysteries; travel leaflets to help us with our dream holiday destinations; and Haiku Poetry!

Through Essentials Spelling we will begin by exploring lots of revision rules of key learning we must have secured from Y2 and Y3. We will have a big focus on 'Morphology' to ensure we understand how words are broken down in order to help us learn how to spell them.

### Other Core Subjects

**Science:** Lessons will be linked to 'Circuits and Electricity' and 'Solids, liquids and gases'. Children will plan and build simple circuits and explore the hazards of electricity and how it has powered and impacted the 'modern age'. They will then move on to investigating the properties of solids, liquids and gasses.

**MFL- French:** we will learn vocabulary and memorise phrases from a well-known story (Goldilocks).

**Computing:** we continue to deepen our learning about Google Programmes and begin with Google Sites where the children will be making their own websites. We will then move onto recognising the role of HTML in a web page and altering the HTML to change the text and images. Alongside this we continue to drip in our Online Safety learning.

**PE:** On Wednesday, Premier Sport will teach Dance and Netball. In class PE lessons on a Friday afternoon, Mrs Furr will teach Orienteering across the Spring Term.

**RE:** We will learn about the origin and practices of Hinduism, Sikhism and Christianity. Children will explore the term 'identity and belonging' and learn to understand the important role of religious leaders and religious places and how they offer support and guidance to others. Later during the term, children will also study the Christian story, traditions and practices linked to Easter.

**Music:** music teaching will concentrate on singing as we prepare for our Year 3/4 production.

**PSHCE:** We will focus this term on the many aspects of keeping ourselves safe, studying a variety of risks and habits and holding discussions in supportive and engaging way.

#### **DT**

For DT this term we will learn about structures with a particular focus on pavilions. We will be linking this to playground equipment!

#### **Art & Design**

In Art lessons during this term we will explore the work of LS Lowry and learn how to imitate his style. There will be an opportunity to use lots of different media this term, including watercolours and charcoal and opportunities to work with wax printing in order to produce a particular effect.

### Messages

**Library** day is still Wednesday. Please return library books to school ready for our slot.

**PE:** please make sure your child's PE kit is in school for Wednesdays and Fridays lessons. Children should have suitable indoor and outdoor clothes in their PE kit.

**Peek of the Week** is posted to google classroom every Friday with a peek at the week ahead. This will include homework suggestions.

Please make sure your child is **reading daily** and recording the reading in Boomreader (including marking books as complete when finished) and questions from adults about their reading will help to improve comprehension skills.

We were very impressed with a core group of children who completed homework every week last term and brought it into school to show what they have been practising. Please encourage your child to do the same if they are not doing so already, it really does make a huge difference to their progress and self-confidence.

Thank you.