

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 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 of learning ahead and other key information - it is so important!

Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

This term, our topic is *Rainforests*. The children will discover where rainforests are found around the world and learn about the fascinating animals that live there, their habitats, and the weather patterns that shape these environments. They will build their geographical knowledge and skills using digital maps and atlases, while also exploring climate zones and biomes. To bring their learning to life, the children will design and construct a 3D rainforest diorama using natural and man-made materials, helping them to understand the different layers of the rainforest.

Our topic work will also consider the Fairtrade movement, its history and influence and will 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 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' (this may roll into the Spring Term!)

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 **Wednesday**, 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 artwork 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 'Cooking and Nutrition: 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.

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 gymnastics in Autumn 1 and then will move to swimming in Autumn 2 (please see the communication from the Office regarding Swimming nearer the time).

PSHCE: During the first part of the term, we will revise the Zones of Regulation and vote for our Class School Council representatives. 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, an overview of the core subjects learning and 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. It is such a valuable resource we produce - please make sure you check it weekly!

PE days are Monday (class teacher) and Wednesday (Premier). During Autumn 2, please see communication nearer the time as to what day Swimming will be on - this will replace class PE for the half term. PE kits will be returned home after half term for washing, unless they get particularly dirty!

Please make sure ALL 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 day as you never know what exciting enrichment activity Miss Meehan has planned!

Please can you provide a water bottle every day. This will be kept on the children's desks.

If you have any questions, please contact the office or for a quick query a member of the Year 4 staff will try to help you after school.

Thank you for reading. We are really looking forward to a successful and happy term!

Mrs Furr (Mon- Wed), Miss Allworth (Thur-Fri) & Mrs Hurst