

Year 4 Newsletter

January 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Happy New Year to you all! The children have settled back into their learning and are already working hard. Below we have provided you with an outline of some of the topics your child will be covering this term for your information, and to give you an idea of how you might be able to support your child in their learning at home.

English

We will begin the term linking a short film to fantasy stories and writing descriptively. We will also be doing a short unit of work on poetry, where we compare the work of two poets, Grace Nichols and James Carter. After half term we will work on a longer fiction unit based on The Spiderwick Chronicles book. We are really working hard with our handwriting and presentation and any practice that your child can do at home would really benefit them. Please let us know if you need another 'how to join cursive' sheet to help with handwriting.

Maths

We will begin by ordering, comparing and rounding numbers and move on to revising mental and written strategies for all number operations; which are addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division i.e. $29+15$, $35-19$, 16×5 , $24\div 6$. We will also be looking at fractions and decimals and the relationship between them; for example $\frac{1}{4} = 0.25$, $\frac{3}{4} = 0.75$. We will be exploring time and measurements later in the half term. We will then do some learning around the use of a variety of graphs and tables to present information. At this stage in year 4 your child really does need to have a good working knowledge of the times tables. Please help your child to practice them as much as you can - it really does make a difference when working out problems if you know your tables!

Please also see that attached letter about Big Maths, which is a new school initiative that we will be starting to work on this week.

Science

Our topics this term are Teeth and Digestion and States of Matter. We will be finding out about the different sorts of teeth that we have, how to look after them and the different jobs that they do, as well as looking at the journey of food through the body. We will also find out how to sort materials into different groups and investigate which can be changed from one state to another. We will be doing lots of practical work and learning how to use scientific equipment such as sieves, thermometers and timers.

Computing

In computing we will start the term off thinking about e-safety and how to keep safe online. We are exploring using databases to collect information about the weather, and then thinking about how to present that information. We will be looking at various graphs and charts. This will link in with various topics such as Enquiry and maths. Later in the term we will be creating our own musical compositions.

Enquiry Based curriculum.

Our topic this term is 'Here and There' and is a geography based topic. We will be learning about geographical features of the UK and the USA and comparing them. We will be

finding out about important landmarks and cities, the weather systems, tourist attractions and learning about grid references as well as compass points.

We will hopefully visit London this term to look at some of the landmarks that we are finding out about, more details will follow about this trip. Unfortunately the school budget doesn't stretch to a USA visit!

PE

This half term both classes will continue to have swimming at the Aspire Centre in Southfields on Wednesdays. **HAZEL CLASS** has a street dance session on Friday with Rachel, a coach from Kick London, whilst **CHERRY CLASS** has an outside PE lesson focusing on ball skills from Zuko, another Kick London coach on Friday. Please make sure that your child has the correct PE kit in school for Monday - white t shirt, blue shorts and plimsolls, and swimming kit for Wednesdays, of costume, towel and hat.

RE/PSHE.

In our RE sessions we will be looking at Faith and Difference, understanding the difference between faith and cultures across the world; and focusing on a variety of religious figures. There will also be a focus on society and the important role of each individual within it. Within PSHE we will be continuing to follow the Enabling Enterprise scheme. This term our challenge is linking the design of a chocolate bar to maths.

Music

This term, year 4 will continue with their weekly trumpet sessions which involve exercises to develop rhythm, singing sessions and further exploration of musical notation through playing the trumpet. It is great that so many children are taking their trumpets home every Thursday after the lesson to practice. Please make sure that they are returned to school the following Wednesday. The children have been taught how to take care of their trumpet so please encourage them to do so at home.

Homework

Spellings go home on **Monday**. Please ensure children copy out their spellings on the sheet provided. They have a spelling test on **Friday**.

Maths homework goes home on a **Friday**, which is to be returned completed on **Monday** mornings. Please ensure that children complete their homework and return their book to school. Children should also continually practice their **times tables** and number bonds to twenty and one hundred.

There is also the homework challenge folder. Only a few pupils from each class are completing the tasks, so don't forget they are there if you would like an extra challenge throughout the term.

Children will receive reading or writing homework on a regular basis and your child should also read as often as possible, even if it is only for 5 or 10 minutes a day. Please ensure your child brings their reading folder into school daily and sign their reading record book to show you have checked the homework.

Thank you for all your help and support. There will be parent's evenings before half term in February, but we are available to talk to before or after school each day.

Jane Bettles and Olivia Russell (Year Four Class Teachers)