

Year 4 Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that you all enjoyed your Easter break. The children have settled back into their learning and have been 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.

Literacy

We are currently finding out more about poetry, particularly the work of Year 4's chosen poets, Grace Nicholls and James Carter. Later this term we will be learning about Dragons and will be using this knowledge to create an explanation text (report) on this topic. We will then be looking at stories with issues and dilemmas. We will explore the language devices used in different texts to create an atmosphere, describe scenes and characters. We will be writing our own stories with issues and dilemmas. Finally we will be looking at the features of persuasive texts and compiling our own persuasive advertisements and leaflets.

Numeracy

A maths summary for the term is attached to this newsletter. This is intended to keep you updated on what we study from week to week. It may change slightly depending on circumstances.

Science

Our topic this term is liquids, solids and states of matter. We will be looking at how to keep things cool, how to keep things warm and what happens in the water cycle with condensation and evaporation.

Our next topic will be investigating the local habitat. We will learn about the different plants and animals that live in our local environment and how to sort them into groups. We will also be visiting the Chelsea Physic Garden in July. You will get more information about this trip nearer the time.

ICT

In ICT we will be making music and using the computers to create different effects. After half term we will be recording our science work in different types of database.

Enquiry Based Curriculum

Our topic this term is the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. We will be finding out about these people, who they were, when they lived, why they came to Britain and what they left behind so that we can find out more about them. We will be researching using iPads, books and artefacts.

ART/DT

We will be making collages of dragons using a variety of different textured fabrics and other materials. We will also be making 3D models of invertebrates to accompany our habitats science topic, as well as an Anglo Saxon village and a Viking longship.

PE

During the first half term both classes will have outdoor PE with Liam, the coach from Kick London. For indoor PE we will be doing gymnastics, thinking about balancing and how to use equipment safely. After half term we will go on to invasion games and outdoor PE will be athletics. Please can you ensure your child is wearing the correct PE uniform; this includes plimsolls, trainers, a white shirt, and blue shorts. This should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home to be washed on Friday.

RE/PSHE.

In our RE sessions we will be learning about Sikhism. We are hoping to visit the Sikh Gurdwara in Wandsworth in a few weeks time. After half term we will be looking at symbols and artefacts. The children will understand the significance of different artefacts and symbols for different religions. In PSHE this term we will be covering a different Enabling Enterprise topic which is called Design Company. This will involve working in small groups to create and design different products that will show an understanding of the role of graphic designers.

Music

The children will continue with their weekly trumpet sessions. If your child has a signed permission slip they are able to bring the trumpet home to practice. Please can you ensure your child is very careful with the instruments as they cost a lot of money.

Homework

Spellings will go home on a Monday, please ensure your child practices their spellings *EVERY* day after school. The spelling test is on the following Friday.

Maths homework will go home on a Friday, which is to be returned completed on Monday mornings. Please ensure that children complete their homework and return the book to school. Children should also continually practice their times tables and number bonds to **twenty** and **one hundred**. i.e. $10+10=20$, $16+4=20$, $50+50=100$, $83+17=100$.

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 PACT folder into school daily and sign their reading diary to show you have checked the homework.

Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have anything to discuss. We are always available for the first fifteen minutes at the end of the day, or we can make an appointment at a time convenient to us both.

Jane Bettles and Olivia Russell