



Y4 Spring Term Newsletter

Monday 7th January 2019

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had a wonderful break and are feeling revitalised. We always look forward to welcoming the children back after the holidays and seeing their enthusiasm for learning once more. After working on our topic 'Art Bot' for a whole term, we are now going to be starting our brand new topic 'Language'. The topic focusses on different languages: their history and how they have progressed to what we know today. We hope the children will find it as exciting as we have to plan. We can't wait for our visit from The History Van on Monday, 14th January – it is sure to be a fun and interactive day looking at the Anglo-Saxons and Old English.

Maths

This half term, our maths learning will focus on the areas listed below. Homework based on these areas will be set on MyMaths.

- Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions.
- Recognise and write decimal equivalents to $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.
- Describe positions on a 2D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant.
- Find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares.
- Divide 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number using formal written layout with no remainder.

For each objective, children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills. We will also continue to focus on children's arithmetic skills in a weekly arithmetic lesson.

English

The novel we will be studying alongside our topic 'Language' will be Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo. This book is sure to engage with its mythical creatures and rich vocabulary. It is based on the epic poem 'Beowulf', originally written in Old English thousands of years ago. Therefore, we will be looking at and writing some of our own poetry. We will also be writing a play script by converting the words of the story into a script. In addition, we will write a letter from the main character's, Beowulf, point of view. Finally, we will have a go at innovating our own myth or legend in the style of Beowulf.

Topic

In topic, Year 4 will learn about a range of different languages that have had a significant influence on the world: Old English, Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Mayan Glyphs, Arabic, Latin and Roman Numerals. Each week, we will focus on a different language and will be having a go at reading and writing in each of the languages!

Home Learning Schedule

Topic

As we encourage independent learning in Year 4, we have set several research projects for your child to choose from and complete over a series of weeks. Using the menu provided in a separate letter, children should choose an activity to complete and hand in by Monday, 11th February.

Reading

In Lower School, we aim to encourage children to acquire a love of reading. Part of this requires the children to be able to read fluently, so it is important that you listen to your child read every day. This only needs to be for a short time each day, as little and often is the best approach when supporting your child with their reading. Your child will be asked to choose a book from the colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library. Their home Reading Diary will be monitored by an adult on a regular basis and the children will be able to change their books once a week, during class based reading sessions.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page, and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day**, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well. Every Friday, we

will look at your child's reading diary and issue a 'smile' if they have read at least four times during the week.

Maths

If they wish, children can access a series of learning activities linked to their current learning in maths on **MyMaths**. They can also practise their times tables on **Times Table Rock Stars**.

PE Schedule

Year 4 will have their first PE slot on a Tuesday with Xcite. 4EL and 4ZN have another PE slot on a Wednesday, whilst 4WN have theirs on a Friday. We ask that the children bring their PE kits to school on Monday, leave it at school for the week, and take it home on Friday to be cleaned ready for the following week. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirts, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), Black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor). For further information, please see the separate PE letter.

Twitter

If you would like to keep up-to-date with your child's learning in school, check out the school's Twitter page. The account details are listed at the top of this letter.

Invite into school...

Year 4 would like to invite you into your child's classroom every Wednesday morning, from 8.40am-9.00am, starting 16th January, to work with your child on their morning task. This will prove a fantastic opportunity to see some of the things your child is learning about in school and work alongside them. We look forward to seeing you then!

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year 4 Team