

## **Year 4 Class Newsletter: Spring Term 2023**

Welcome back Year 4!

I hope you all had a wonderful winter break and are feeling refreshed!

This term, the children will be studying the following...

### **English:**

In the first term, we will be focusing on the book 'Black Dog' by Levi Pinfold. This book contains themes of facing fears, resilience, and bravery which will link in with our PSHE topic this term. The children will be looking at the issue of the size of the dog and how it relates to fear and worries. They will then write descriptions and suspense-filled narratives based on a fear they might have following Levi Pinfolds' structure.

Later in the second term, we will be focusing on the book 'The Boy Who Biked the World' by Alistair Humphreys. This book explores core themes of adventure and travel as the main character leaves England, cycling through Europe and all the way through Africa. Along the way, we are introduced not only to the various fascinating landscapes he passes through but also to the people who embrace him as he travels. Using this book as a stimulus we will be writing journal entries, explanatory texts, and instructional texts.

In line with the statutory curriculum requirements for English in Year 4, this term we will focus on expressing time, place, and cause using conjunctions, how to use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech and the grammatical difference between plural and possessive -s. We will also look at how to expand noun phrases by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns, and prepositions and finally we will explore fronted adverbials to vary sentence structure.

### **Maths:**

**Multiplication and division:** The children will be using their knowledge of multiples to make the link between repeated addition and multiplication. The children will find factor pairs by creating factor bugs. The children will then learn how to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number using formal and informal methods. This skill will be built upon. First starting with calculations where there are no exchanges, then move on to one and two exchanges. The children will then use these multiplication strategies to solve correspondence problems.

**Length and perimeter:** During this unit, the children will learn how to measure in kilometres and metres and will recognise and calculate perimeters of shapes. They will then use their knowledge of perimeter to calculate missing lengths in rectilinear shapes and regular polygons

**Fractions:** The children will learn to order and compare mixed numbers. They will learn how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions and the reverse. The children will learn to recognise equivalent fractions and how to add and subtract fractions.

The children will also be developing their problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and mental arithmetic through these topics.

### **Religious Education:**

Our first topic in RE this term is 'Jesus the Teacher'. We will study several stories from the New Testament including Jesus' Presentation in the Temple and Jesus's Baptism. We will also learn about Jesus's disciples and what a parable is.

In our second topic, 'Jesus the Saviour' we will understand how Jesus was truly human and truly God. We will learn about Holy Week, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Lastly, we will study the Death of Jesus on the Cross and his resurrection.

## **Science:**

For the first half of the term, our topic in Science is Electricity. In this unit, we will construct simple circuits & draw them. We will investigate which materials are the best electrical conductors and use this information to explore more sophisticated circuits and make switches. The children will also conduct a research project about a scientist in this field.

Our second topic will be Sound. The children will learn how the ear hears and understand that sounds are made when objects vibrate and that sounds travel through solids, liquids, and gases. The children will investigate how well sound can travel through different materials and how instruments make different sounds.

## **Geography:**

Throughout spring 1, the children will be focusing on the enquiry question: Beyond the Magic Kingdom: What is the Sunshine State Really Like? During this unit, the children will gain an understanding of the physical and human geographical features of a region in North America with which they can begin to compare and contrast the characteristics of a region of the United Kingdom. The objective of the investigation is to take the pupils beyond that with which they may be familiar and introduce them to different aspects of Florida's physical and human geography.

Our enquiry question in spring 2 is: Why Do Some Earthquakes Cause More Damage Than Others? In this unit, we will be focussing on finding out why it is that earthquakes only tend to occur in particular areas of the world as a consequence of the pattern and movement of the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust. The children will initially investigate the causes and impact of one specific recent earthquake in one particular location in the world, where earthquakes occur frequently, before looking more widely at global patterns.

## **Art:**

In Art throughout the first term we will be focusing on the works of Pablo Picasso. We will be studying the artist in detail and recreating some of his iconic pieces of work. We will primarily be working with chalk, pastels, and paint to recreate Picasso's 'Blue' paintings and 'icy' scenes. We will also be focusing on our painting techniques this half term. We will be painting a scene from Black Dog, particularly working on our sense of perspective; mixing paint to achieve shades of colour; and developing our brush skills.

In the second term, we will be studying the work of Katsushika Hokusai who is an artist of the Edo period, active as a painter and printmaker. We will use his prints to inspire our own work with watercolour painting, shading techniques, and colour mixing.

## **Computing:**

The children will be focusing on the concept of networks and will learn how devices communicate with one another. The children will identify components and how these components share information. By the end of this unit, the children will be able to explain how information moves around a network and the role of the server. They will also know that networks connect to the internet via a router and know some of the journey a website goes through to reach your computer.

## **PE:**

The children will continue to have PE every Thursday this term. Children must be dressed and ready to go, in their PE kits every Thursday rather than in regular school uniform.

The focus in P.E. this term will be target games. In this unit, the children will be practicing underarm throws and over arm throws, catching skills, and will explore attacking & defending principles.

Lastly, the children will be playing some competitive team games using the skills they have learned through the term.

Year 4 will continue with their swimming lessons on Tuesday for a further 4 weeks, up until half term.

**Homework:**

Every Friday, the children will have spellings and times tables practice uploaded to their homework on Google Classroom. These spellings and times tables are to be learned and revised for their tests which will continue to take place on Friday.

Maths and Literacy homework will also be set on a Friday and uploaded to Google Classroom. It is to be completed at home and stuck into their homework book and brought to school by the following Thursday.

Above all, please encourage your children to read every night and to enjoy talking about their reading as much as possible. We want them to love reading and become life-long readers!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries. I am looking forward to an exciting and educational spring term with them.

Best Wishes,

Miss Pooley