

## **Year 4 Class Newsletter: Autumn Term 2022**

Welcome back Year 4! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling much recuperated. I am very excited to be Year 4's new class teacher and have already enjoyed getting to know them over these past weeks. I am positive we will have lots of fun learning in class as the year progresses.

This term, the children will be studying the following:

### **English:**

In the first term, we will be focusing on the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. Escape from Pompeii will link in with our history topic 'of The Romans' which the children have been enjoying learning about so far. We will use a range of drama techniques to help us empathise with the main characters escaping from the fearsome Vesuvius.

Later in the second term, we will be focusing on the book 'The Clockwork Crow' by Christina Fisher. This book explores core themes of mystery and adventure. Therefore, we will use this novel as a stimulus for children to rewrite their own mystery stories and will be writing from the perspective of other characters through letter writing and journal entries.

In line with the statutory curriculum requirements for English in Year 4, this term we will focus on knowing parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, pronouns. Choosing appropriate pronouns or nouns within and across sentences to aid cohesion and to avoid repetition. The children will also expand noun phrases by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases.

### **Maths:**

During the first term, the children have been focusing on completing the unit of place value

**Place value:** The children will learn to recognise numbers up to 10,000 on a place value chart. They will practise flexible partitioning of numbers up to 10,000, understanding that the whole number can be split into parts in many different ways. Children will use numerals, words and expanded form in their partitioning. The children will furthermore round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000, choosing the appropriate columns to look at.

**Addition and subtraction:** Following the completion of the place value unit the children will move on to addition and subtraction. During this unit the children will learn to add and subtract two 4-digit numbers with more than one exchange using the written method of column subtraction/addition alongside concrete manipulatives

**Multiplication and division:** Children will be using their knowledge of multiples to make the link between repeated addition and multiplication. Children apply their knowledge of equal groups and use a range of concrete and pictorial representations to deepen their understanding of multiplying and dividing. The children are introduced to the idea of the associative law (but do not need to know it by name), which focuses on the fact that it does not matter how they group the numbers when they multiply.

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

### **Religious Education:**

Our first topic for religion this term is 'The Bible'. We will learn several stories from the Old Testament and we will understand how God speaks to us directly in this very special book. In our second topic, 'Trust in God' we will study the stories of Jonah, Zachariah and the Nativity story and we will learn about how, even when it is difficult, we can put our trust in God and how God fulfils His promises.

### **Science:**

In our first topic 'Animals, including Humans' we will be learning about the human digestive system. The children will be able to identify the different parts of the digestive system and understand their functions. We will be learning about our teeth and the causes of tooth decay. We will finish this unit by studying animal food chains. After half term, our topic will be States of Matter. We will discuss the features of solids, liquids and gases and identify the properties of different materials, before moving on to experiment with reversible and irreversible changes. We will also learn about condensation and evaporation

### **History:**

Our topic this term is 'The Romans'. We will be learning about the expansion of the Roman Empire; its social structure; Roman entertainment, gladiators, soldiers and Roman gods and goddesses. We will also learn about Queen Boudicca and her revolt against the Romans and understand how different characters in history have different points of view.

### **Art:**

Art throughout the first term will also be integrated with our History topic. We will study Roman mosaics and create our own mosaic pictures. In DT, the children will design and their own create Roman shields

In the second term, we will be studying the work of Alma Thomas who is an expressionist painter and art teacher who was best known for her bright, colourful works which she created simply because they made her happy. We will use her paintings to inspire our own art using bright colours while incorporating lines and shapes for full effect.

### **Computing:**

Children will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally the children will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information

### **PE:**

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

### **Homework:**

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

Maths and Literacy homework will also be set on a Thursday and uploaded to Google Classroom. It is to be completed at home in their homework book and brought into 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 term with Year 4.

Best wishes,

Miss Pooley