

## Year 4 Class Newsletter: Summer Term 2023

Welcome to Year 4's summer term newsletter. I hope that you all had a lovely and relaxing Easter break. Since taking over the class in February, it has been a pleasure getting to know all the children and I have been impressed with their hard work.

I can now confirm that I will remain as the Year 4 class teacher until the end of the school year. I will continue to be supported by both Miss Morrison and Mrs Wren. We also have a new teaching assistant called Miss Menon who will be working with the class full time. In addition, we will also be supported by Mr Money, particularly in Maths, English and Art lessons.

This term, the children will be studying the following:

### English:

For the rest of this half term, we will continue to read 'Cloud Busting' by Malorie Blackman. The children will learn about the different types of poetry within the book and explore the themes of bullying and friendship. As well as writing poetry, the children will also write in various genres. They will write recounts such as diary entries, persuasive texts and non-chronological reports. We will also use this text as the basis for our reading lessons to help develop the children's comprehension skills.

After half term, we will study 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B White. The children will use this as a stimulus for their writing. They will continue to write in a range of genres including recounts and discussion texts. The children will also learn to write engaging narrative pieces by using techniques from the author. In our reading lessons, we will use the text to enhance our comprehension skills, particularly focusing on inference and vocabulary.

Throughout the rest of the term, we will continue to build on our knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar skills. We will revise all of the word classes and the basic use of capital letters, full stops and commas before moving on to more advanced objectives. We will focus on knowing the plural and possessive -s, using apostrophes for plural possession, using standard English verb inflections, and writing noun phrases with modifying adjectives, nouns, and prepositional phrases.

### Maths:

**Fractions:** For the past few weeks, we have been focusing on fractions. In the remaining lessons, we will be converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and explore equivalent fractions. We will then learn to add and subtract fractions, including mixed numbers.

**Decimals:** Following the completion of the fractions unit, the children will move on to decimals. They will be learning to recognise and write decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths, recognise and write decimal equivalents to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and find the effect of dividing a one- or two-digit number by 10 and 100. They will also identify the value of the digits in the answer as ones, tenths and hundredths, round decimals with 1 decimal place to the nearest whole number and solve simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to 2 decimal places.

**Money:** The children will be recapping basic calculations with money from Year 3 before looking at more complex examples. This will help further consolidation on the previous block of learning as the children will write money using decimal notation. We will be focusing on ordering and estimating money, converting pounds and pence, adding and subtracting money and solving word problems that will involve partitioning and recombining.

**Time:** During this block, the children will recap their understanding of time from Year 3. They will learn about different units of time such as years, months, weeks and days before moving on to hours, minutes and seconds. They will then practise telling the time on both analogue and 24-hour clocks. The children will also develop their reasoning skills by solving time-related problems.

**Shape:** In this unit, the children will explore different types of angles and 2-D shapes such as triangles, quadrilaterals and other polygons. They will also learn about symmetry.

**Statistics:** During this short block, the children will look at interpreting data in graphs and charts. The main focus will be on exploring and drawing line graphs.

**Position and Direction:** The children will learn about how to read and plot co-ordinates. They will then move on to translate shapes on co-ordinate grids.

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

In June, Year 4 children across the country are required to complete the statutory multiplication tables check (MTC) which is completed online. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It helps schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. The children will complete this test at school between Monday 5th June and Friday 16th June. Please see the additional parent leaflet for more information.

### **Religious Education:**

Our first topic for religion this term is 'The Early Christians'. We will be learning about how Jesus made Peter head of the church, how the Church began at Pentecost, the power of the Holy Spirit, the narrative of Stephen and Saul and reflect on how God brings the good out of evil. We will look closely at the journey of Paul who became one of the Church's greatest apostles and his missionary journeys. We will also be looking at how the teachings of the Apostles can help us and how we can follow their examples in our daily lives.

Our topic for the second half term is the 'The Church'. We will be learning about how we belong to the Church and that the Church is a family. We will be discussing the sacraments and what happens when a person receives a sacrament. We will also be covering the Church's year and looking at the liturgical year and calendar. We will then move on to the Communion of Saints and how this includes all of the people in the Church. Towards the end of the topic, we will study the Mission of the Church and deepen our understanding of Mary as the Mother of the Church.

### **Science:**

In Science, the children are currently learning about sound. In the remaining lessons, we will explore how to make instruments louder and quieter and measure how the loudness of a sound changes as the distance from the source increases. In the final lesson, we will investigate the different notes that plucked bands make and discover how to alter the pitch of a sound.

After half-term, the children will move on to learn about living things and their habitats. The main aims are for the children to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways, explore, and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. They will also learn to recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

### **Computing:**

During this half term, the children will be focusing on programming using Scratch. They will understand how to create a simple script in Scratch, be able to change the sprite and prevent it from rotating. They will learn to identify key features and understand how to decipher actions that make the quiz game work. They will also learn what a variable is and how to use the 'say' and 'ask' blocks.

After half term, the children will focus on creating media by designing a website. In this unit, they will develop their research, word processing, and collaborative working skills whilst learning how web pages and web sites are created. They will also explore how to change layouts, embed images and videos and link between pages.

### **History:**

This half term, we will be studying the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. We will be learning about when and why they invaded Britain, where they came from, how they influenced Britain, what life was like at the time, and when they converted to Christianity. We will be using inquiry-based learning and will be exposed to a range of artefacts and resources to inspire our curiosity.

### **Geography:**

After half term, the children will be learning about how we can live more sustainably. In this unit, the children are introduced to the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development through a number of examples that will be familiar to them in their everyday lives, such as recycling and 'bags for life' at supermarkets. From these familiar examples, they will progress gradually to reflect upon the concept of a resource and how these can be renewable and infinite or non-renewable and finite. From this foundation, the children are encouraged to consider their own lives and what they currently do as individuals and at home as a family to be more sustainable.

### **Design and Technology:**

This half term, the children will be learning about the purpose of a recipe and why it may need to be adapted. Throughout this unit, they will learn to follow a baking recipe, make, adapt and test a prototype and design a biscuit to a given budget. In small groups, the children will then make a biscuit that meets a given design brief.

### **Art and Design:**

After half term, we will be focusing on painting and mixed media using the theme of light and dark. The children will investigate different ways of applying paint, how to mix tints and shades of a colour. They will use tints and shades to give a three-dimensional effect when painting and explore how paint can create very different effects. The children will also learn to consider proportion and composition when planning a still-life painting and apply their knowledge of colour mixing and painting techniques to create a finished piece.

### **PE:**

This term, Year 4 will continue to have PE every Thursday with the Fulham sports coaches. The children should come to school in their full PE kits. Please ensure that the children wear plain black or white trainers.

### **Homework:**

Homework will continue to be set on Friday and will be due the following Thursday. The children will be given an English and Maths task. Spelling lists will be given for the children to learn for a test the following Friday. Additional challenge tasks will be set which can be completed if the children would like to do so. Therefore these are not compulsory.

All children should read for at least 20 minutes at home each night. They should also be working on ensuring that they are fully secure in the rapid recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12, as well as identifying related division facts and square numbers. I would also encourage the children to complete tasks on Mathletics as well as the MTC simulator on Maths Shed.

The children should try to complete homework as independently as possible. If you assist your child with a task or you feel they are spending a great deal of time completing the work set, it would be useful for you to annotate on their work or let me know so that I am aware of this.

Homework will be reviewed together as a class and initially self-marked to ensure that they receive instant feedback. The children will be given opportunities to share their answers with the class and model these to their peers. Miss Menon or I will check whether the tasks have been completed and give feedback to the children where needed. We will also review tasks further with those children who need extra support or clarification.

If children do not complete all of their homework or fail to hand it in on time, they will miss part of their lunchtime break on a Thursday. This will be for a maximum of 15 minutes.

**Equipment:** The school will continue to supply children with the equipment they need for lessons including handwriting pens, pencils and rulers. The children can bring in their own equipment if they wish, but some children are bringing too much equipment including highlighters and coloured pens in huge pencil cases. Unfortunately, these can be a distraction so I have asked the children to think carefully about the amount of equipment they need to bring to school. The children do not need rubbers, ink erasers or friction pens as rubbing out their work is not an effective use of their time. This can also affect the quantity of work produced during lessons and also hinders the presentation of their work. If the children make a mistake, they are encouraged to neatly cross it out and carry on.

**Key dates:**

**Bank holiday:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Parent meetings:** *Please make an appointment with Mrs Hodnett for one of these options. The appointments will be for 10 minutes.*

Option 1: Phone call meetings: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May (1:00pm – 4:30pm)

Option 2: Face-to-face meetings: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May (10:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 3:00pm)

**Break up for half term:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 3:25pm

**Summer 2 begins:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

**Sports Day:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June

**Class assembly:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 9:05am

**Break up for the summer holidays:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to the term ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Miss Browne