

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter - Spring 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a great Christmas and New Year. We are looking forward to another busy term!

As you know, we are working with our new Curriculum, and the children are coping well with the higher expectations that they are expected to achieve. Please continue to praise their efforts at home, as we are very proud of their work here! Thank you also for your support last term, and do feel free to ask if there is any further help I can give to help you in working with your child.

English

As we said in September, the new curriculum places high emphasis on enjoying reading and on building stamina (being able to read a good chunk of text in a reasonable amount of time). Please continue encourage your child to read every night for at least 15 minutes and then discuss with you what they have read; your efforts in this have helped massively in their learning last term.

Work on grammar, punctuation and spelling is a very important part of the new curriculum and the expected level of spelling is much higher. We have a new spelling programme in school to address this and the new sheets will form part of the children's homework. Being able to write at a reasonable pace but in a neat and joined style is essential this year - reminding children of this when they are doing homework would be really helpful.

The children will continue to have lessons on Monday mornings with Mr Barron, who will be focusing on writing, especially writing longer stories.

You might like to start thinking about World Book Week which begins on 6th March and which will include our traditional Book Character Dressing Up Competition. We will also be having a visit from Storyteller Adam Bushnell on 12th March.

Maths

The demands of the new maths curriculum means that quick recall of number facts especially times tables and reading bigger numbers is essential. We will be continuing to work on telling the time, revisiting the 24 hour clock and solving real life problems with money so any support you can give your child with these areas would be brilliant. Please take as many opportunities to add and subtract numbers mentally as you can - try adding up the costs of things at the shops and calculating change. We will also be looking in greater depth at fractions, so sharing amounts of objects into halves, quarters etc will be useful.

All children have free access to RM maths (accessed through the home page of our school website by clicking on RM Unify) and we are encouraging the children to use this at home for extra practise.

Children need to know tables and related division facts up to the 12 times tables which will be sent home on Friday, with their spelling sheet, to practise for the following Thursday.

PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT THURSDAY IS HOMEWORK DAY.

Science

We will start the term with a project on the theme of Technology through Time. This will involve looking at how technology has affected lives in Britain from the Roman Period to the present day. We will be looking at Electricity as part of this in particular. We will move on to looking at the Saxons and Vikings, which will include a visit to Bede's World museum in Jarrow on the 17th March . Look out for the details of the trip in the near future.

In R.E. we will be looking at how we can learn from characters in the Bible, and about different types of churches. PHSE involves learning strategies to cope with difficult situations and keeping ourselves safe in a range of situations.

P.E. will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is a good idea to send in PE kit and leave it in school until half term to avoid children forgetting their kit. Could you please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety and that they do not wear earrings on PE days.

If your child needs an inhaler, could you please check that they have one that they can leave at school which is in date. If your child's need for an inhaler changes, could you please let the school know straight away.

I look forward to seeing you at open evening on the 26th February but, in the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground before and after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Please note that due to Government legislation leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

By working together we can ensure that children approach new challenges with confidence and achieve success.

Your interest and support is greatly appreciated.

Mr M Darling.