

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter -Spring 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a great start to 2016. Year Four have had a good first few weeks and are working very hard!

As you know, we have had a year of 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! Do feel free to ask if there is any further help I can give to help you in working with your child.

English

Please continue to encourage your child to read most nights for around 10-15 minutes and then discuss with you what they have read; your efforts in this have helped massively in their learning last year.

We are making good progress in writing stamina and the children are writing a lot more each day. 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.

Our focus this term is on writing fiction stories and poetry; please try to get your child to discuss what they are reading and which phrases they like that they can 'magpie' to use in their own stories!

We have provided access to the Reading Eggs program on the Internet for all the children; please do encourage them to try it as it is great fun and encourages reading skills.

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 are doing very well with learning the times tables but do keep up practise; we will continue to send tables practise home with spellings on Fridays.

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.

Topic

Our Topic this term is Ancient Egypt; the children always enjoy this topic, especially the bits about Mummies! There is a wealth of resourcing available to support this, especially online. The school Unify system has lots of fun activities for them to try to learn more.

In Science we will be looking at changes of state and sound. This is a good opportunity to look at how things change around the house, e.g. eggs solidifying when cooked, steam from the kettle or shower. Ask your child to explain to you what is happening!

In R.E. we will be looking at Jesus' authority and the Easter story. PHSE involves learning strategies to cope with arguments and keeping ourselves safe in a range of situations.

P.E. will continue to 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 3/4th March 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. If you prefer, you can contact me using the school email service at mdarling@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

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.