



Year 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a fantastic Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the start of the new term as much as the Year 4 team are.

On behalf of the Year 4 team, I would like to thank you all for the lovely cards we received and also the generous presents that were given. They were very much appreciated.

The current Year 4 team for the Spring term is:

Mr Atkinson - Year 4 teacher

Miss Pattison - Art teacher

Miss Chojnowska - Teaching Assistant

Dates for the Diary

1st February - E-safety talk for parents

2nd February - Sleeping Beauty Theatre (at School)

13th - 17th February - Half Term

21st March - Parents Evening

23rd March - Parents Evening

23rd March - Class Photographs

20th April - Trip to British Museum

Key features of this term's learning

As **readers and writers** we will continue to explore different types of texts.

Our in depth fiction writing will be to create a play script and for non-fiction we will be producing information and explanation texts.

As **mathematicians** we will be developing our fluency with written calculation methods, basic skills and exploring decimals and fractions.

As **historians** we shall be researching the Anglo Saxons and how their lives were different and similar to our own. Our school trip will be to the British Museum where we will looking at the Sutton Hoo burial site in more detail by studying the artefacts the museum has and then creating a news report on the find.

As **scientists** we will be investigating living things and their habitats. We will study different ways to categorise animals and how their habitats are important to their lives.

As **athletes** we will continue to work on our ball skills through football and basketball as well as developing our confidence on the hall apparatus.

As **programmers** we will be following and creating algorithms to code a set of accurate instructions. We will continue to consider aspects of digital safety, particularly how we keep ourselves safe online.

As **linguists** we will developing our vocabulary and building the phrases we can use to describe ourselves and others. We will also study a few key aspects of French culture and history.

As **geographers** we will be looking at St. Lucia as a case study in how different cultures live. We will also develop our locational knowledge, using atlases to locate different countries, places and regions.

As **good citizens** we will be learning about Easter and thinking about ways in which religions help us to live our lives.

As **artists** the children will be looking at Pointillism and the work of Seurat. They will try the Pointillism technique and create landscapes of their own. They will continue with the theme of landscapes looking at the influence of Constable and practise colour mixing before painting a local landscape of their choice. As **musicians** we will continue with our recorder lessons and revisit the drumming project we took part in and create a performance piece for later in the year.

As **good classmates** we will be celebrating difference in PSCHÉ and thinking about our dreams and goals.

Reading

Children should be reading every night for 10 minutes. Although many children are happy to read by themselves, it is still a very useful exercise for children to read aloud to an adult a couple of times a week, where possible. The adult can help the child to focus on adding expression to their reading, e.g. is an angry/quiet/ happy voice required. Asking children questions about what they are reading is also important in helping the children understand the text.

Questions can be about asking the children to predict what might happen next or explain what has happened already as well as explaining how and why the characters have reacted to the situations they have found themselves in. Children should also try to read different sorts of texts including fiction and non-fiction. They may read a novel at bedtime, a non-fiction article for home work on the computer, a children's history book, e.g. Horrible Histories, a magazine about a favourite subject, etc.

Homework

The children are given 4 pieces of homework a week.

English homework is given out on a Monday and should be handed in on a Wednesday. It should take the children 20 minutes to complete the homework. Maths homework is given out on a Wednesday and should be handed in on a Friday. It should take the children 20 minutes to complete the homework.

Topic homework is given out on a Friday and should be handed in on a Monday. It should take the children 30 minutes to complete the homework.

Spelling homework is given out on a Friday and any tasks should be handed in on a Wednesday. The spelling test is on a Friday.

The Year 4 team are looking forward to a happy and successful spring term with your children. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Atkinson