

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term (Second Half) 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term holiday. We hope you have had a good week and enjoyed the break.

We have created a new information leaflet for this half term. We hope that it will give you an insight into the topics that we are learning about. We hope that this enables you to support your child's learning journey at home.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to come and see us or contact us by telephone through the school office.

Miss Walmsley and Mrs Quinton

English

Miss Walmsley will continue to read Billionaire Boy. When completed we will explore classic narrative poetry; The Pied Piper of Hamelin. We will listen to, read and discuss the poem focusing on the vocabulary. We will collect words and phrases which capture the reader's interest, such as expanded noun phrases and alliteration and we will aim to learn the poem by heart in order to perform it. We will also study adverbs for how, where and when and our punctuation focus will be upon commas and apostrophes for contractions and possession. We continue to use dictionaries and thesauruses to help develop our vocabulary.

English homework this half term will be based these English skills, using paper based activities and SPAG.com.

Mrs Quinton will read the story of The Pied Piper of Hamelin and use this text for refining our comprehension skills. We will develop our reading skills by skimming a text, picking out key information and discussing what we have read. We will focus on understanding key vocabulary in a text and using a dictionary to look up new words that we encounter. To celebrate Bonfire Night we will also reading about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot. Later on in the term we will also be reading the poem The Night Before Christmas. Our grammar focus will be Standard English verb agreements, irregular verbs and also determiners.

We will continue to help the children develop an understanding and love of reading through our weekly guided reading sessions. We will also learn new spelling patterns (which will be your child's spelling homework) and each week we will practise and develop handwriting.

Maths

Miss Walmsley will focus on properties of 2D shapes including triangles and quadrilaterals. We will be identifying horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of parallel and perpendicular lines. We will also compare and order angles. In addition we will develop our understanding of multiplication and division. We will begin by looking at multiplication tables for 6x and 9 x table and the corresponding division facts. We will partition numbers to help multiply and divide and learn how to multiply 3 numbers. We will then move on to develop written methods to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by a one digit number. Please continue to practise all multiplication tables.

Mrs Quinton will finish our work on reading and writing numbers up to two decimal places and identifying the value of each digit. We will link this to money and writing amounts of money using decimal notation. Then our focus will move onto telling the time and beginning to read, write and convert time between analogue and 12 and 24 hour digital clocks. We will also solve problems by converting times from hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, weeks to days and months to years. We will then estimate and compare different lengths. We will measure the perimeter of rectangles in metres and centimetres and convert units of measure. Finally we will interpret data on bar charts and time graphs. We will also solve some problems using data presented in bar graphs, pie charts or tables.

The website www.crickweb.co.uk has some good games to support maths topics. There are also games on My Maths and Purple Mash too. Purple Mash has some good Times Tables games and songs. Go to games and then Times Table Toons to find them. Times tables rock stars is also a fantastic website to help children practise tables.

Science

Our Science topic is Sound. We will be learning to recognise sounds and explain that sounds are made by vibrations. We will learn how vibrations from sounds travel through the air and into our ears. We will learn about the inside of our ear and what it is like. We will investigate the pitch and loudness of a sound and how the pitch can be changed. We will then investigate how to muffle sounds.

Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	<p>Our topic for the whole term is The Great Plague of 1665. The second half of the term is a history focus. We will study living conditions in London at this point in time and how this contributed to the spread of the disease. The children will learn how the Plague started, what the plague was and why it was a problem. The children will research what help was available at the time and how people coped. Finally we will discuss how far the plague spread and what put an end to the disease. Art work this half term will be linked to the Mexican Festival 'Day of the Dead'. We will observe and draw a range of skulls linked to this festival. Other artwork will be linked to Christmas.</p>
Computing	<p>We will continue focusing on the importance of keeping safe when we use the internet. Our discussions will focus on cyberbullying. E-safety will be an on-going theme throughout this year. The website https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ has some good internet safety information for both parents and children. Our other topics for this half term are coding and databases. The children will finish off some coding work from the previous half term. Then we will look at collecting data and putting it into a database. We will make graphs and charts with our data. We will also learn how to create a branching database.</p>
PE	<p>The children will continue swimming lessons as part of the Physical education curriculum. Swimming lessons will be every Monday morning. Children will need swimming kits, towels, a swimming hat and one pound for lockers on this day. No earrings or jewellery should be worn on this day for health and safety reasons. As the weather is now getting much colder could children be reminded to bring coats? Our second PE slot will be each Thursday afternoon. We will have a sports coach in from The Sports Development Team teaching football skills. It is important that P.E kits are in school. Please ensure your child brings in jogging trousers and trainers every Thursday in case we go outside. In addition it is important that children don't wear earrings or jewellery on P.E. days for health and safety reasons.</p>
Mandarin	<p>Mandarin will continue to be taught by a specialist teacher. Children will develop their knowledge of the language and pronunciation skills.</p>
Music	<p>The children will be learning Christmas songs for the KS2 Advent Service. We will following our Music Curriculum on Charanga. We will finish Mamma Mia and started a new topic learning to play a glockenspiel.</p>
RE	<p>Our RE topic is Christmas-exploring the symbolism of light. We will explore the belief that Jesus is the light of the world and understand what this means. We will talk about Christingle services and symbolism and understand how Christians reflect the light of Jesus in their lives. We will consider how our behaviour and the behaviour of others can bring light into other people's lives.</p>
Homework	<p>Reading books can be changed whenever your child is ready for a new book, please help us to do this by signing and commenting in your child's reading record.</p> <p>Please support your child at home with their reading and for less confident readers it is helpful to listen to them read aloud and to discuss the text. This helps with fluency and comprehension. If children read other books or different reading materials this can also be recorded in their reading diary. Please help your child to develop their comprehension skills by asking them about the story that they have read, discussing the characters and their actions. It would also be helpful to ask them to summarise a paragraph or a chapter.</p> <p>This half term, we are starting a new reading competition. We want to encourage our class to read regularly! If your child reads a minimum of 2 pages at home every night (Monday to Thursday) and gets their diary signed 4 consecutive times, we will enter their name into a prize draw at the end of the week. At the end of each term we will pull a name out of the hat and the winner will win a prize! PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BRING THEIR READING BOOK AND DIARY INTO SCHOOL EVERY FRIDAY, SO WE CAN CHECK THEIR DIARY. MANY THANKS.</p> <p>Spellings will be sent home weekly. Blue group on a Thursday and Green group on a Friday and they will be tested the following week. Please ensure your child brings their spelling book into school every Thursday (Blue group) and every Friday (Green group), so that the new spellings can be written in it. Spellings will be published on the school website.</p>

Homework	<p>Homework will be given out <u>every Friday</u> to be handed in by the <u>following Wednesday</u>. Each Friday they will write their homework tasks in their homework diary. Please could you ensure that you sign the homework diary each week and that it is in school <u>every Wednesday</u> so we can sign each diary!</p> <p>Talk Homework will be issued each Tuesday. This is a way to chat to your child to help them prepare for the writing that they will be doing on Wednesday. Children who discuss their ideas prior to producing a piece of writing do significantly better, this is therefore a super way to support your child's writing journey. Other English homework will link to the work we have been studying in class, some paper based and some set on SPAG.com.</p> <p>Maths homework will be given out weekly. We are really trying to ensure that the children are secure with their times tables up to the 12 times table by the end of Year 4. This half term we will be focusing on the 8x, 9x and 11x tables. Please make sure your child knows both the multiplication and division facts for each times table. There is no harm in going over times tables that have been previously learnt!</p> <p>During this half term we will be reading and telling the time up to the minute on analogue and digital clocks. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ask your child to tell you the time. In this digital age, children are finding telling the time on analogue clocks a lot harder, especially times to the hour. Also asking them time questions is helpful too e.g. what will the time be in 25 minutes?</p> <p>Maths homework will vary from My Maths tasks to a set of written questions. Please ensure your child writes their answers in their Maths homework book in pencil please. Full details for Maths homework will be in your child's homework diary each week. If you should encounter any homework problems or technical difficulties with My Maths, please let us know by writing a comment in your child's diary.</p> <p>Science homework this half term will be making a musical instrument. More details will follow in your child's homework diary.</p>
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