

# Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

## Spring Term (Second Half) 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the break. We have a lovely half term planned with a multitude of enrichment activities which we hope will be both educational and thoroughly enjoyable.

We have created a new information leaflet giving an insight into the topics that we will be learning about and also enabling you to support your child's learning journey at home.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to pop in and see us, write a note in the reading/homework diary or alternatively you can contact us by telephone through the school office.

Miss Walmsley and Mrs Quinton

**English** Miss Walmsley will continue reading *The 26 Storey Treehouse* as our class novel. We will also study the poem, *From a Railway Carriage* by Robert Louis Stevenson in anticipation of our train trip to Accrington Eco station. We will read the poem aloud in groups and analyse the poem in order to plan and write our own version. We will recap on adverbials for when and where in order to use them in our writing. In addition we will use similes and metaphors for description. We will study the features of a recount and on returning from our trip will write a recount of the experience. We will finish the term by looking at the features of instructions, including time and causal conjunctions and imperative verbs, in order to write instructions on how to make bread. The children will continue to bring talk homework home every Tuesday which links to their writing, it would be really beneficial if you could spend 5 or 10 minutes discussing this with your child.

Mrs Quinton will continue reading *Charlotte's Webb* by E.B. White. We will continue developing our comprehension skills by skimming a text, picking out key information then discussing and summarising what we have read. We will focus on understanding key vocabulary from the text and using a dictionary to look up new words that we encounter. We will also discuss the characters and think about their feelings, thoughts and actions using information from what we have read to draw our conclusions. We will also read Non Fiction texts and identify the features of this genre of writing. Our grammar focus is determiners, identifying nouns, verbs and adjectives in a sentence, suffixes, precise and collective nouns. We will carry out short writing tasks linked to *Charlotte's Webb*.

The children will read in class regularly during English lessons and guided/ independent reading sessions. We will also learn new spelling patterns (which will be your child's spelling homework). Each week we will also practise and develop handwriting joins and letter formation.

**Maths** In maths Miss Walmsley will focus upon fractions. We will *understand that a fraction is one whole number divided by another* (for example,  $\frac{3}{4}$  can be interpreted as  $3 \div 4$ ). We will add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. Use diagrams to find families of common, equivalent fractions. We will learn decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths and write decimal equivalents to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;  $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $\frac{3}{4}$ . We will also *find and write fractions of a discrete set of objects including those with a range of numerators and denominators*. Finally we will describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down. Plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon and complete a simple symmetric figure.

Mrs Quinton will focus on reading Roman Numerals to 100. We will also look at negative number sequences, counting backwards from zero and putting negative number sequences in the context of temperature. We will revise place value understanding the value of each digit in a four digit number and the value of each digit in a decimal fraction up to 2 decimal places. We will also order and compare numbers beyond 1000 and round any number to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. 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.

There are lots of good Apps available to download on I-pods and I-pads for free and some good websites include; [www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com) and [www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools) Please remind your children about the rules for using apps and websites safely. There are also games which will help to reinforce our topics on My Maths too. Purple Mash also has a good games section which can help your child to learn and practise their times tables.

<b>Science</b>	Our topic is States of Matter. We will identify materials and sort them according to their properties. We will group materials as solids, liquids and gases and discuss the properties of these materials. We will use a thermometer to measure temperature and develop our skills at reading the scale. We will investigate how water can change its state from a solid to a liquid and a gas. We will also learn about the water cycle and how it works.
<b>Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)</b>	We will investigate how bread can vary to meet needs and preferences. We will taste a range of bread products and design, make and evaluate a bread product. Alongside our trip to Accrington train station we will learn about and be able to describe the different locomotive technologies that have developed over time. We will find out about some of the main train routes in Great Britain. Explain both positive and negative effects of the railway and know some biographical details about some historically significant individuals and locomotives. We will also spend some time looking at railway related artefacts, travel by train, visit Accrington train station and finally learn railway safety rules.
<b>Computing</b>	The children will be learning how to use simple spreadsheets on Purple Mash. We will use simple formulae to create a counting machine. We will learn how to use data in a spreadsheet to create a line graph. We will use a spreadsheet to explore place value. Our E-safety focus will be on Webcams. We will discuss when webcams are used and how they can be used safely. The children will be reminded about being SMART every time they use the internet. For more information visit <a href="http://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-on-the-internet">http://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-on-the-internet</a> .
<b>PE</b>	The children in year 4 will continue swimming as part of the curriculum. Swimming lessons will continue every Monday morning and can children please be reminded to bring; swimming kits, towels, a swimming hat and one pound for lockers on this day.
<b>Music</b>	We will be following the Charanga scheme of work. The topic for this half term is "Lean on Me." We will listen to and appraise the song Lean on Me by Bill Withers and other gospel/soul songs.
<b>RE</b>	Our topic is Easter as a story of Betrayal and trust. We will learn about the events leading up to Easter, The Last Supper, Gethsemane, The Betrayal of Judas, The Denial of Peter and the loyalty of the women. We will use these messages to think about whom we trust and why we trust them. How we can be trusted and what it means to betray someone or be betrayed and how we should try to forgive others.
<b>Homework</b>	<p>The children should continue to read regularly to help with reading ability and for enjoyment. 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. Children will bring home books from the school scheme which 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. 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. We are developing summarising skills so it would be helpful to ask them to summarise a paragraph or a chapter. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and diary to school <u>every day</u>, so we can listen to children read during the week.</p> <p><b>Spellings</b> will be sent home weekly on a Friday (blue and green group) and they will be tested the following Friday. Please ensure your child's red spelling book is in school every Friday, so that the new spellings can be written in it. Red group's spellings will be given out on a Thursday and tested the following Thursday.</p> <p><b>Homework</b> 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. <b>Please could you ensure that you sign the homework diary each week and that it is in school every Wednesday so we can sign each diary?</b> This is very much appreciated in order to allow us time to respond to any feedback.</p> <p><b>Talk Homework</b> will be issued each Tuesday. This is a way to chat to your child to help them prepare for the Big write 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.</p> <p><b>English Homework</b> will either link to our class novel or be related to a grammar or punctuation rule. Some of this homework may be set on SPAG.com. I appreciate that not all children can access this and will provide opportunities to complete these in class.</p> <p><b>Maths homework</b> 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, so we will have times tables tests. Please make sure your child knows both the multiplication and division facts for each times table. Maths homework will vary from My Maths tasks to a set of questions. Please ensure your child writes their answers in their Maths homework book. Full details for Maths homework will be in your child's homework diary each week. If you should encounter any technical difficulties with My Maths, please let us know by writing a comment in your child's diary.</p> <p><b>Science homework</b> may be given from time to time and the task will be linked to something we are doing in our lessons.</p>