

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term (First Half) 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back after the Christmas holiday, we hope you had a restful time. Thank you very much for the cards, presents and good wishes, it was very much appreciated.

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 will study, enabling 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, write a note in the reading/homework diary or contact us by telephone through the school office.

Miss Walmsley and Mrs Quinton

English Miss Walmsley will be reading *The 13-Storey Tree House* By Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. We will use the novel to explore different styles of writing and use these as a starting point for our written work in class. Our writing, every Wednesday, will be linked to this novel and we will write in a range of styles. These will include; writing instructions, a diary, letters and a persuasive argument. We will also work upon drafting and editing our writing to make improvements and correct any mistakes and we will develop dictation skills. We will use the book to revise and learn grammar and punctuation aspects such as apostrophes to show possession, plural and possessive 's', adverb phrases, fronted adverbials, clauses and commas. 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 be reading *Charlotte's Webb* by E.B. White. We will read through *Charlotte's Webb* and develop our reading skills by skimming a text, picking out key information and discussing and summarising the text. We will focus on understanding key vocabulary from the text and using a dictionary to look up new words that we encounter. Our grammar focus is on determiners, pronouns, collective nouns, using nouns for precision and changing verbs into nouns. We will carry out short writing tasks linked to the novel on the themes of a persuasive letter, instructions, character profiles and a spider fact file.

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 continue to work on learning multiplication tables up to 12x12. Please help your child to continually practise these as these will help with our topics on multiplication and division. We will learn how to multiply 3 numbers, multiply by 10 and 100, and develop written methods of multiplication. We will also develop our understanding of division including mental division and written methods of short division. We will begin to link our understanding of division to simple fractions. 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 continue work on time. We will revise telling the time on a 12 hour and 24 hour digital clocks. We will also convert different units of time e.g. hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, days to weeks etc. We will estimate and compare different lengths in centimetres and metres. We will also convert centimetres to metres and vice versa. We will measure the perimeter of rectangles in metres and centimetres and also learn how to find the area of these shapes too. We will learn to read 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. 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 plenty of Apps available to download on I-pods and I- pads for free and good websites include; www.sumdog.com and 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 has good games and songs for learning times tables. Go to games and then times table toons.

Science	Our Science topic is Teeth and the Digestive System. We are going to learn about different parts and functions of the digestive system. We will identify and name the different kinds of teeth and talk about their functions. We will carry out an investigation linked to tooth decay. We will learn about animal's diets and how that links to the type of teeth that they have. We will learn about food chains and food webs. Some useful websites for your child to look at our http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/7_8/teeth_eating.shtml and http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/science/teethandeating/
Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	We will finish work on the Great Plague looking at how the plague spread out of London and how far it travelled. We will then focus on The Art of Food. We will investigate food through various periods of history and look at the contrast between food of the rich and the poor. We will investigate the origin of food by examining packaging and identify these countries on maps. We will discuss issues related to food and the environment; air miles, locally produced food and fair trade and identify sources of local food through investigations. We will use artist's techniques to explore still life art and make observational drawings of food and fruit. We will develop these ideas into paintings and 3D sculptures. Finally we will investigate how bread can vary to meet needs and preferences. We will finish the topic by designing and making a bread product.
Computing	Some of the work that we do in Computing will link to our Science topic. We will use a search engine to find out information about teeth and the digestive system and look at animations from the Internet. Children will be reminded about Online safety and we will continue to reinforce the online safety messages. We will compile information from our Science topic to create a presentation or a leaflet or poster about teeth. We will look at data and graphs using spreadsheets.
PE	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. Our second PE slot will be on Thursday afternoon. The children will be learning skills and techniques associated with sports hall athletics led by South Ribble coaches. Please remember that earrings or jewellery should not be worn on these days, for health and safety reasons.
Music	We will be following the Charagua scheme of work. We will finish our unit on Abba and start a unit of work called "Stop!" It is a song/rap about bullying.
RE	Our topic for this half term is Jesus the Son of God. We will explore Jesus' Authority and deepen our understanding of Jesus, who he was and his teaching and behaviour, through the stories of Jesus. We will also explore the Jewish celebration of the Sabbath.
Homework	<p>The children should continue to read regularly. 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>Spellings will be sent home weekly on a Friday (Red group on Thursday) and they will be tested the following Friday (Red Group Thursday). Your child has a red book with their spellings in. Please ensure this book is in school every Friday, so that the new spellings can be written in it.</p> <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 every Wednesday so we can sign each diary? This is very much appreciated in order to allow us time to respond to any feedback and to be able to give you feedback on spelling test scores.</p> <p>Talk Homework 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>English Homework 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>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, 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>Science homework may be given from time to time and the task will be linked to the current topic.</p>

