

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term (First Half) 2017

Welcome to Year 4

Dear Parents,

Miss Walmsley and Mrs Quinton welcome you to Year 4. We hope you have had a lovely summer break and it is lovely to see everyone back at school.

In Year 4 there are two teachers. Miss Walmsley teaches all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Mrs Quinton teaches Wednesday afternoons and all day Thursday and Friday. Mrs Hayton and Miss Azhir support us during the mornings and Mrs Gibson covers our PPA time.

Here is an information leaflet to explain more about our lessons for this half term and the homework your child will bring home. We hope this leaflet will provide you with an understanding of our topics for this half term and help you to support your child's learning 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.

We look forward to meeting you over the next few weeks.

Miss Walmsley and Mrs Quinton

English

Mrs Quinton will be practising comprehension skills and we will read short extracts from explanation texts and have a go at writing some explanations of our own. We will develop our reading skills by skimming a text, picking out key information and discussing what we have read. The children will also practise summarising what we have read into their own words. In addition to this, we will be practising dictionary skills so that the children can understand unfamiliar words and expand their vocabulary banks. We will also be reading the novel *The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog* by Jeremy Strong. Our grammar focus will be verbs and nouns and adjectives. Our written work will link to our Science work on Electricity and themes from our class novel.

Miss Walmsley will study stories written by David Walliams. These will include; *The boy in the dress*, *Gangster granny*, *Rat burger*, *Mr. Stink* and *Billionaire boy*. *Billionaire boy* is our first book of choice, we will use the book to investigate a range of spelling, grammar and punctuation and the effect that these have on the story. We will also use this book as inspiration for our writing. We will aim to use some of the same writing techniques, grammar and punctuation within our writing every Wednesday morning. To help improve our writing; English homework for this half term will focus upon a range of spelling, grammar, punctuation and writing activities, some of these activities will be set on SPAG.com, others will be completed in English homework books. A good website, filled with activities linked to these books is; www.worldofwalliams.com If children choose to research David Walliams or use this site for inspiring activities please ensure that they keep safe on the internet. Supervising use will ensure content is appropriate and please remind children about the importance of not sharing personal information.

The children will be listened to regularly in guided and/or individual 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

Mrs Quinton will focus upon place value and reading and writing numbers to at least 10,000. We understand the place value of numbers up to 4 digits. We will find 0.1, 1, 10, 100 or 1000 more of a number, use place value to order and compare numbers beyond 1000 and round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will then move onto reading and writing numbers up to two decimal places and identify the value of each digit. We will link this to money and writing amounts of money using decimal notation.

We will be telling the time and beginning to read, write and convert time between analogue and 12 and 24 hour digital clocks.

Miss Walmsley will focus upon addition and subtraction and problem solving. This will include adding and subtracting 4 digit numbers and numbers including one decimal place. We will learn methods to help add and subtract numbers mentally including how to partition numbers. We will also learn formal written methods such as column method addition and subtraction. We will begin to use estimation and inverse operations to check our answers and we will solve addition and subtraction 2 step problems. Towards the end of the half term we will begin to investigate the properties of shape recapping on names and properties of 2d polygons. We will also understand the terms, horizontal, vertical, perpendicular and parallel. Obtuse and acute angles and lines of symmetry within 2d shapes.

We will focus upon multiplication throughout the year as learning multiplication tables are really important for helping in all aspects of maths. We will recap over tables that the children should already know including 0x, 1x, 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x and 4x. We will then learn square numbers and 9 times tables. If your child knows their times tables please continue to practise (including learning the inverse i.e. $2 \times 5 = 10$ so $10 \div 2 = 5$) to reinforce this knowledge. There is a multiplication grid in the front of homework diaries with which they can use to practise.

The website www.crickweb.co.uk has some good games to support maths topics. There are also games on My Maths too.

Science	Our Science topic is Electricity. We will think about and name everyday electrical appliances that we use. We will discuss whether these appliances need mains or battery power to make them work. We will be thinking about the importance of electricity in our everyday lives. We will discuss electrical safety and ways in which we can save energy. The children will have a go at making their own circuits using batteries, buzzers, wires and bulbs. They will also investigate materials and find out if they are conductors or insulators of electricity. They will also investigate different types of switches and make switches with cardboard, tin foil and paper clips.
Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	Our topic for the whole term is The Great Plague of 1665. During the first half term we will take a Geography focus. Children will learn about the importance of taking care of the environment. They will consider environments at a range of scales from their classroom to the whole world. It will include issues around litter and waste e.g. damage to the environment; reducing the level of resource use; and reuse, as well as recycling, of resources. Children will recognise how people can adversely affect, as well as improve, the environment. They will begin to identify and explain differing views that people have about topical environmental and geographical issues. The website www.globalrenewables.co.uk has some fun activities that parents and children can try out. In art we will study Keith Haring. He worked on street art to improve the subways of America. We will use his work as a starting point to create our own work and look at how graffiti and street art can be damaging to the environment and how that if used correctly can work in a positive way to improve the environment. The website www.haringkids.com is suitable to use if children want to research this artist at home. Once again please ensure that children stay safe on the internet. It is important to supervise internet use and provide rules for using the internet safely.
Computing	We will begin the year by focusing on the importance of keeping safe when we use the internet. We will talk about how important it is to keep personal information safe and to know what to do if anything inappropriate appears on screen when on a website. This 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 topic for this half term is Programming. The children will start the topic by focusing on the importance of using the right instructions to give commands. They will try out some simple programme commands using programming software on Purple Mash.
DT	We will be linking our DT work to our Science topic. The children will design a simple project that has a simple circuit inside it.
French	We will begin to learn some basic French. We will be learning greetings, days of the week, numbers and colours.
PE	The children in year 4 will go swimming as part of the curriculum. Swimming lessons will take place 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. Our second PE slot will be each Thursday afternoon. We will have a sports coach in from South Ribble Borough council teaching orienteering skills. It is important that P.E kits are in school on this day and once again, for health and safety reasons, earrings or jewellery should not be worn. Children may also bring tracksuits for this session.
RE	Our RE topic is God, David and the psalms. This will focus on the Christian values of friendship, responsibility and creativity. The children will consider important values. They will discuss people and places that inspire us. Think about what God is like. In addition the children will read stories about David and consider the qualities of kingship and friendship. Finally the children will explore the nature of God by creating images to illustrate the psalms.
Homework	The children have reading books to bring home. These 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. There are some suggestions for comments stuck inside the front cover of your child's reading diary. Please support them 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. We are developing summarising skills so it would be helpful to ask them to summarise a paragraph or a chapter. It is also useful to ask your child what new words they may have come across in their reading and to make sure that they understand the meaning of these words. 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. Spellings will be sent home weekly on a Friday and they will be tested the following Friday. 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. 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. There is a space for comments, if you wish to add anything. Talk Homework will be issued each Tuesday. This is a way to chat to your child to help them prepare for the short/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. English homework will link to work we have been doing in class. It could be a short piece of writing, or a grammar or punctuation exercise this may be paper based or set on spag.com. 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 or a paper based task. 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. Science homework may be given from time to time and the task will be linked to something we are doing in our lessons.