

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term (Second Half) 2017

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to meet you all during Parent's Evening. Welcome back after the half term holiday. We hope you have had a good week and enjoyed any Firework celebrations.

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	<p>Mrs Quinton will be continuing to practise comprehension skills. We will read a variety of different genres of comprehension texts. 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. Our grammar focus will be verb tenses and Standard English verb agreements and also adjectives. We will also be reading The Pied Piper of Hamelin and the poem The Night Before Christmas.</p> <p>Miss Walmsley will be looking at non-fiction books, with particular focus on The Guinness World Record 2018 book. We will study the layout and features of such books. We will use these books to explore comparatives and superlatives (for example; big, bigger and biggest). Precise nouns, alliteration, ly adverbs and adverb phrases. Our punctuation focus will be upon commas and apostrophes for contractions and possession. We will also be using dictionaries and thesauruses to help develop our vocabulary.</p> <p>We will be using The Guinness World Record book as a starting point for our writing too. Each Tuesday I will provide some talk homework; this will link to the writing that we will be completing on Wednesday. This homework should be used as an aid to complement writing; it would be really helpful if you could spend 5 or 10 minutes talking about what the children will be writing about. In addition some of our English homework this half term will be based around Guinness World Records other will be set on SPAG.com.</p> <p>The children will be listened to weekly 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.</p>
Maths	<p>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.</p> <p>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. Our next unit is time. We will 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 problems using data presented in bar graphs, pie charts or tables.</p> <p>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 good Times Tables games. Go to games and then Times Table Toons to find them.</p>
Science	<p>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. 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.</p>

Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	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.
Computing	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 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 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.
PE	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 Tuesday morning, the topic is Thai Chi and children will learn a range of movements and breathing techniques. It is important that P.E kits are in school on this day and that earrings are removed for safety.
French	We will continue to learn some basic French. We will be learning greetings, days of the week, numbers and colours. We will also learn some Christmas vocabulary.
Music	The children will be learning Christmas songs for the KS2 Advent Service on 5 th December in Church. We will be also following our Music Curriculum on Charanga.
RE	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.
Homework	<p>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. 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. 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 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.</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.</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>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 will be two tasks this half term. More details will be given in your child's homework diary.</p>