

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term (Second Half) 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope this current newsletter will give you an insight into the topics that we are learning about this half term. 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 finish the novel Tom Gates a tiny bit Lucky then read The Firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman. We will read and analyse this story in order to plan and write our own version. We will identify and discuss the purpose, audience, language and structures of the story and discuss and record ideas for planning. We will begin by planning and writing an opening paragraph which combines the introduction of a setting and character and continue work on paragraph writing to organise events in a story. We will continue to understand adverbials and create sentences with fronted adverbials for where and when. We will also learn how to use apostrophes for singular and plural possession e.g. *the dog's bone and the dogs' bones and* explore homophones and the correct use of there, their and they're. All of our writing will be linked to this book and we complete a range of writing tasks including; character description, new setting, journalist report and a short story. Please help your child's writing by talking to them about the Big Write and supporting them in their English homework.

Mrs Quinton will continue reading Charlotte's Webb by E.B. White. We will continue developing our comprehension skills. We will finish reading through Charlotte's Webb and develop our reading skills by skimming a text, picking out key information and 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 look at some Non Fiction texts. We will look at the features of a Non Fiction Text. Our grammar focus is on pronouns, determiners, prepositions and noun phrases. We will carry out short writing tasks linked to the novel on the themes of character profiles and a spider fact file. We will also try writing an information booklet linked to our Science topic.

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). The focus for our spellings will be in prefixes and suffixes. Each week we will practise and develop handwriting.

Maths Miss Walmsley will develop the children's understanding of fractions. We will add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. Recognise equivalent fractions and write decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths. We will begin to count on and back in fractions too. The children will learn how to find fractions of a set of objects and learn how to find fractions of quantities. We will also solve simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to two decimal places.

Mrs Quinton will continue interpreting discrete and continuous data on bar charts and time graphs. We will solve sum and difference problems using the data presented on these types of graphs. We will also use a variety of sorting diagrams to compare and classify numbers and geometric shapes.

We will describe positions on a 2-D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant and describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down. We will also plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon. We will complete a simple symmetric figure with respect to a specific line of symmetry. We will also plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon.

We will continue to identify horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of perpendicular and parallel lines and identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations. We will identify acute and obtuse angles and compare and order angles up to two right angles by size and lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations.

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 and www.bbc.co.uk/schools Please remind your children about the rules for using apps and websites safely. There are also games on My Maths too.

Science	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. We will discuss the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We will explore using a thermometer 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.
Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	This half term we will be thinking about Geography, in particular Europe and European countries. We will complete some initial work on continents, oceans and countries around the world then we will move on to learn about a region in a European country. We will explore similarities and differences between this chosen region and regions of the U.K that the children are familiar with. We will produce a travel brochure for our selected region.
Computing	We are going to continue our work on spreadsheets by using simple formulae to create counting machines. We will continue our work on e-safety by discussing webcam safety. Finally we will have a go at making a podcast which is linked to our Science or Geography topic.
PE	The children will continue swimming as part of the curriculum. Swimming lessons are 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 on Tuesday afternoon. We will play tennis, and learn the skills associated with this. We will learn how to send and receive a ball and how to strike a ball using a racquet. Once again it is important that no earrings or jewellery is worn on this day. Children may bring tracksuits and trainers on this day as we will aim to go outside, weather permitting.
Music	We will learn about different European classical composers e.g. Maurice Navel, Ludwig Van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. We will listen to some music composed by them. We will also learn about different instruments that are in an orchestra.
RE	Our RE topic will explore 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. What it means to betray someone or be betrayed and how we should try to forgive others.
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 reads 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. 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>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 something we are doing in our lessons.</p>

