

# Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

## Summer Term (First Half) 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a relaxing Easter. This latest 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 be studying Myths and Legends. We will read a range of myths and legends and analyse these stories in order to plan and write our own Myth or legend. We will use a range of planning styles such as story mountains, story maps, text maps, and story boards to help plan our writing. We will focus on characters and settings and use vocabulary to create emphasis and atmosphere. In particular we will learn how to use clauses, conjunctions, homophones and suffixes. We will also revise paragraphs and speech marks to extend and improve our writing.

The focus this half term will also be upon proofreading own work to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Talk homework will be sent home each Tuesday, this will be linked to the piece of writing the children will be completing on Wednesday and literacy homework will be linked to this topic.

A good website is [myths.e2bn.org](http://myths.e2bn.org) but as always, please supervise internet use and ensure your child is aware of online safety rules.

Mrs Quinton will focus on non-fiction texts linked to the Water Cycle, rivers and clouds. We will analyse the structure of the texts and explain key vocabulary within the context of the text. We will continue to refine our dictionary skills to investigate new vocabulary. We will discuss the meaning of key pieces of vocabulary within the context of the text. We will identify the main themes from more than one paragraph and summarise what we have read. Each week we work on developing our comprehension skills. During comprehension lessons we will continue to make sure we understand unfamiliar words and develop our skills to answer inferential questions. Our grammar focus is to revise the past, present and future tense of verbs, and also revise pronouns and noun phrases by extending them using prepositions.

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). Each week we will practise and develop handwriting.

### Maths

Miss Walmsley will continue to help children develop an understanding of fractions and decimal fractions. We will continue to understand division as sharing. Use short division methods to divide and recognise remainders. Apply these skills to find fractions of quantities. We will also solve problems involving division and fractions. We will also begin to identify place value to two decimal places. Recognise and write decimal equivalents for fractions and divide numbers by 10 and 100. We will also learn how to round decimal numbers. And order and compare decimals. In addition we will count in multiples of 6, 7,8,25 and 1000, including counting back through zero.

Mrs Quinton will continue to help the children to understand translations as a movement or slide of a shape by a specified number of units to the left/right and up/down on a grid. We will also plot specified points on a grid and draw sides to complete a given polygon. We will complete a simple symmetric pattern or shape on a grid with a specific line of symmetry.

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. We will also read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clocks. We will solve problems converting different units of time.

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 on My Maths too.

<b>Science/ Geography</b>	We are continuing to learn about the Water Cycle. This work will then lead to our topic on Rivers. We will learn about the different geographical features of a river and how rivers have influenced human settlements. We will use maps to locate key rivers in our local area, the U.K. and in the World. The children will choose a river in the world to research.
<b>Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)</b>	<p>Our topic for this half term is Ancient Egypt. We will carry out initial research into four ancient civilisations – Indus Valley, The Shang Dynasty, Ancient Sumer and Ancient Egyptians. Then focus upon the Ancient Egyptians. We will locate Egypt on a world map. Discuss the nearby seas and countries and investigate the River Nile. We will learn how Ancient Egypt was ruled and who the pharaohs were. We will also learn what life was like for different people and groups of people in Ancient Egypt. We will study what happened to Egyptians after they died and what the pyramids were and how they were built.</p> <p>For Art and design we will be exploring and developing drawing and painting skills. We will investigate artists who have worked within the theme of water in particular the work of the Japanese artist Hokusai. We will make observational drawings in sketchbooks using photographs of waterfalls, floods, waves and/or droplets and use a full range of drawing materials, including different grades of pencils, charcoal and chalk.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	We will be learning about the internet and the World Wide Web. We will use child friendly search engines to research information about the Water Cycle and rivers. We will discuss what makes a good website and talk about the need for verifying the information we find. We will research information about rivers in the world. The children will be reminded about internet safety when using the internet.
<b>PE</b>	<p>The children will continue swimming as part of the 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.</p> <p>On Tuesday afternoon we will be learning skills associated with cricket. We will practise different ways of striking a ball using bats. Catch a small ball with two hands. Stop a ball and throw it back to partner, bowler or wicket keeper quickly and accurately. Bowl underarm and overarm with increasing accuracy and speed and retrieve, intercept and stop a ball when fielding. Children can bring tracksuits for these sessions and once again no earrings or jewellery should be worn on this day.</p>
<b>Music</b>	Our theme is Water. We will listen to some music that has been inspired by water. We will talk about the pitch, tempo and the structure of the music. We will also try making music with water and plastic bottles.
<b>RE</b>	We will study The Church. The children will discuss the idea that Peter was the rock that Jesus would build his church upon. Study Churches from around the world and explore symbolism in the church such as Christian colours and church artefacts.
<b>Homework</b>	<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><b>Spellings</b> 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><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 <u>every Wednesday</u> so we can sign each diary.</b></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 link to myths and legends, or be a spelling, punctuation or grammar activity (SPAG).</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. 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>