

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term (First Half) 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break. We hope you had a relaxing time over the Easter weekend. We are now in the start of the summer term, which seems to have come around incredibly fast. We hope this latest newsletter will give you an insight into the topics for this half term and 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 legend, discuss and analyse these 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, apostrophes, 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 English homework will be linked to this topic or a grammar exercise set on SPAG.com.

A good website is 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 identify the main themes from more than one paragraph and summarise the content. 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, quantifying determiners, prefixes and suffixes and 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. We will 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 recap 2D shapes, describe movements between positions as translations and describe and plot coordinates on a 2d grid.

Mrs Quinton will teach Roman Numerals to 100. We will also learn about negative number sequences, counting backwards from zero and putting negative number sequences into the context of temperature. We will revise place value understanding the value of each digit in a four digit number. We will also order and compare numbers beyond 1000 and round any number to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We will also revise reading, writing and converting time between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clocks. We will solve problems converting different units of time and time intervals. We will revisit measuring the perimeter of rectangles in metres and centimetres and also learn how to find the area of these shapes too. We will also estimate, compare and calculate different measures (particularly focusing on capacity and volume).

There are many 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/ Geography	We will be continuing our topic from last half term but focusing on how water changes. We will finish our work on evaporation and condensation. This will lead to discussing and understanding how the water cycle works. The science work will lead into a geographical focus on rivers. We will learn about 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.
Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	<p>Our topic for this half term is Ancient Egypt. 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>
Computing	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 also combine different software to produce a presentation or website page linked to our science and geography themes. The children will also have the opportunity to use digital maps. As always, the children will be reminded about internet safety when using the internet.
PE	<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 Thursday afternoons South Ribble coaches will be working with year 4 teaching skills associated with rounders. Children will practise different ways of striking a ball. Catch a small ball with two hands. Stop a ball and throw it back to partner or bowler quickly and accurately. Bowl underarm and overarm with increasing accuracy and speed and retrieve, intercept and stop a ball when fielding. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD BRINGS INTO SCHOOL JOGGING TROUSERS, A JUMPER AND TRAINERS EVERY THURSDAY DURING THIS HALF TERM. Once again earrings or jewellery shouldn't be worn on this day.</p>
Music	We will be following the Charanga scheme of work. We will finish our "Lean on Me" unit of work from last half term and then we will begin a new unit called "Blackbird." This unit of work is based around the Blackbird song by the Beatles.
RE	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.
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>English Homework will link to myths and legends, or be a spelling, punctuation or grammar activity (SPAG).</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. 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. This half term there will be homework about the Water Cycle. There will be a choice of tasks. Your child will need to choose ONE task that interests them from the list. More details will follow shortly.</p>

