

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term (Second Half) 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a restful holiday. 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. Our overall theme for this half term is 'Hunted'.

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>Miss Walmsley will continue her theme on Ancient myths and legends. We will look at some visual literacy and short films associated with myths and legends and continue to read a range of myths and legends. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use these films and stories as a starting point for our creative writing.• focus on using a dictionary to look up definitions of words and develop word banks of synonyms by using a thesaurus.• consider questions which arise from these myths and legends such as; Why has Pandora opened the box?• look at both sides of an argument and the children will begin to understand the idea of facts and opinions.• use these ideas to have a formal debate and to write a discussion text.• continue to develop writing using precise verbs, complex sentences and the correct use of commas.• continue to revise the rules for speech punctuation and writing in paragraphs. <p>Mrs Quinton will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• revising verb tenses and verb choices, singular and plural nouns, using apostrophes for possession with plural nouns and revising subordinating conjunctions and subordinate clauses .• practising our reading and comprehension skills every week.• reading together information and story texts about the Amazon Rainforest. This will link to our habitats theme in Science.• looking at the features of persuasive writing and discussions.• writing short diary extracts, fact files and persuasive writing about saving the rainforests. <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). The focus for our spellings will be on suffixes, homophones, plural nouns and plural nouns with possessive apostrophes. Each week we will practise and develop handwriting.</p>
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Maths	<p>Miss Walmsley will continue to study fractions and decimals. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognise decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths and recognise and write decimal equivalents for $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.• add and subtract numbers including decimals and we will solve 2 step word problems using all the four number operations.• learn and consolidate our times tables. <p>Mrs Quinton will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• continue looking at estimating, comparing and converting different units of measure (focus on mass and capacity).• convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clocks. We will solve problems converting different units of time.• interpret and present discrete and continuous data using bar graphs and time graphs.• use sorting diagrams to compare and classify geometric shapes. <p>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.</p>
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Science	Our Science topic is Habitats. We will be thinking about what a habitat is. We will focus on a local habitat our school garden. We will be using our observational skills to identify mini beasts that we find in our garden. We will also be creating classification keys for mini beasts and other animals. We will also discuss the link animals have in a habitat through the food chain. This work will be in contrast to work in English about a rainforest habitat.
Creative curriculum (including history, geography and art)	We will continue with our topic focusing upon Ancient Egypt. The children will learn about pharaohs, mummification and belief of the afterlife. They will also learn about the boy king, Tutankhamun and Howard Carters discovery of the treasures within this pyramid. We will study famous Egyptian women in particular Queen Hatshepsut and Cleopatra and the role of Egyptian girls. We will explore Egyptian amulets and why these were worn. We will complete the topic by studying the weighing of the heart ceremony, and Gods and goddesses. Children will draw and use clay to sculpt an ancient Egyptian artefact.
Computing	We will conclude some more work on Programming and algorithms. We will design a program to classify different animals or plants. We will also use debugging skills to work on ways to overcome problems that we have with our programming codes. We will use child friendly search engines to research information. On-line safety messages will be reinforced when we use the Internet for any research.
PE	The children will continue swimming as part of the curriculum. Swimming lessons continue every Monday morning. As before, children will need swimming kits, towels, a swimming hat and an old one pound for lockers on this day. Remember that earrings or jewellery should not be worn on this day for health and safety reasons. Each Wednesday afternoon the children will be coached by the South Ribble Sports development team focusing upon netball skills and participating in netball games. Children can bring tracksuits and trainers for these sessions and once again no earrings or jewellery please.
Music	Our focus this half term is learning the songs for the KS2 production 'Hoodwinked'.
RE	Our topic for this half term is to consider what prayer is. We will discuss praying, how people pray, when people pray, where people pray and why people pray. The topic will reflect upon different styles of prayer and we will collect and create prayers in a variety of styles. We will learn how prayer is an expression of belief and commitment.
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. 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>

