

Year 4 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to Year 4! We are very excited to get to know your children a little better and support them in their return to school. If you have any questions for us or things you feel we should know, please do not hesitate to speak to us in the playground or make an appointment via the office. Mrs Lewis is the class teacher Mon-Wed, and Mrs Bowman is Thur-Fri.

English: Writing

We will start the new year with a focus on 'Stories in Imaginary Worlds' where we will focus on creating interesting settings and unusual characters. We will look at how our language choices have an impact on the reader and how to create a picture in their mind. We will then move on to look at **Non-Chronological Reports** and using headings, subheadings and paragraphs to organise information. To support our learning in Science, these reports will focus on endangered animals.

We will also explore **Tetractys poetry**, which are poems where verses have five lines and the syllable pattern 1, 2, 3, 4, 10. To encourage the class to write for pleasure, there are also half-termly opportunities to complete personal writing projects.

It is an expectation in Year 4 that we check our spelling and punctuation carefully before we hand in work so that it is our best effort. Sentences should start with a capital letter and finish with suitable punctuation, e.g. a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark. Proper nouns should also have capital letters. Time is given in the lesson to use dictionaries to support spelling accuracy. We encourage children to make changes and edit their work as a way of developing and improving their writing.



Our class story is 'The Land of Roar' by Jenny McLachlan to link with our writing topic of imaginary worlds.

English: Reading

In Year 4 we read daily; this will be as a whole class, as a small guided reading group or individually. There will also be an opportunity for children to read for pleasure a book of their choosing – this can be from our class or school library or from home if they wish. We visit our school library every week and enjoy class storytime four times a week.

We know that many of our children are avid readers, which is brilliant – the more they read, the more confident they will be with their writing, too. Even the most competent readers still hugely benefit from **discussing the text** after they read (perhaps with a focus on one or two pages of their book).

We encourage children to read to an adult at home **3 times a week**; please record any home reading in your child's reading record. Thank you. We have sent home some of the 'VIPERS' question prompts we use in class in case you find these of use.

English: Spelling

New spelling patterns are introduced on a Monday. We practise these words regularly in class throughout the week with a focus set of 10 words. Children will bring home a list of these words for your reference and so you can support them learning their spellings in a way that works for your family. We no longer have weekly spelling tests; instead we test a sample of the words taught every couple of weeks.

Homework:

To support our spelling, we have a subscription to **Spelling Shed**. This is an online resource where children can login and practise their spellings on games set to match their weekly spelling pattern. Often, the games will speak a word or sentence that then needs typing. **Children will need to complete the assigned task by the due date** and can play additional bonus games too if they wish. They can choose their own difficulty level for these games and compete against their classmates too. The expectation in Year 4 is that 4 games are completed every week.



Maths

Our first topic this year is **Place Value** where we will cover the following objectives:

- count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 100
- find 1000 more or less than a given number
- count backwards through zero into negative numbers,
- recognise the place value of each digit in a 4-digit number
- order and compare numbers beyond 1000
- round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000
- read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C)

We will then move on to **addition and subtraction** where we will:

- Add and subtract 4 digit numbers using the column method
- Estimate and use inverse answers to check calculations
- Solve two-step addition / subtraction

problems. We will also explore area as part of our work on

Every day, we will continue to work on our times tables by completing our TT Rockstars activity. Regular practice at home will really help your child feel more confident with their recall. In the summer term, Year 4s will undertake a statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) and are expected to know up to 12x12. Many thanks for your support with this.

RE

Our first topic this year is '*How do ancient stories influence modern celebrations?*' We will be studying festivals of light and how light is used as a symbol in different world faiths and non-religious world views.

After half term we will begin a focus on Islam and look in detail at the question '*How do the 'Five Pillars' help Muslims to lead a good life.*' Here we will describe and show understanding of how Muslim beliefs impact in a variety of ways on the life and decisions of believers.

Science

Our first Science topic for the autumn term is **Animals and their Habitats** where we will cover the following objectives:

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

As part of this topic, we will be raising money to adopt an animal through our class bun sale.

We will then look at the topic: **States of Matter** where we will cover the following objectives:

- compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases
- observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C)
- identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

PSHE

This term we will explore the topic, '**Physical Health and Wellbeing: What is Important to Me?**' with a focus on choices, food and sleep.

PSHE is taught by Mrs Lawrenson and alternates with French.

Geography / History

We have a Geography focus this term with our topic **Active Earth**.

We will aim to answer the following questions:

- What is under our feet?
- What are tectonic plates?
- Why do earthquakes happen?
- Where do earthquakes happen?
- What are the effects of an earthquake?
- How do we measure earthquakes?
- How do you stay safe in an earthquake?
- Are all volcanoes the same?
- How volcanoes are formed?
- Where are volcanoes located?

As part of our English work, we will also look at how to write a discussion on the pros and cons of living near volcanoes. We will be using our Oddizzi account for further research - this can be accessed at home with the following details:

www.oddizzi.com

username: Otley4

password: oddizzi



DT

This term, DT is taught by Mrs Lawrenson and has a textiles focus. We will be learning how to turn a 2D shape into a 3D model and make an owl teddy suitable for children.

In **Computing**, we will begin the year by working on our key skills to ensure we can save our work successfully, safely incorporating text and images found on the internet.

We then move on to answer the question, '**What makes an excellent multimedia story?**' where we use 'Pivot' animation.

This software can be accessed online at home for free at <https://pivotanimator.net/> if your child would like to practise further.

In **Art** this term we will use hatching and cross hatching to show tone and texture in our drawings. We will explore the work of **Lui Ferreyra** and complete our own self-portraits in the same style.



This term, **French** will be taught by Mrs Lawrenson. Our topic is 'Je Me Presente' which is 'All About Me'. We will also recap on our French number, colour and alphabet knowledge. In Year 4, we alternate French with PSHE.

PE this half term will be hockey on a **Wednesday** with Mr Wilce and netball on a **Thursday** with Mrs Fenton-Green.

After half term, PE will be Mondays and Wednesdays but we will remind you of this nearer the time!

Music

This half term we will have a focus on Gospel and Soul songs based on our new Sing Up unit '**This little light of mine**'. This is an expressive call-and-response Gospel song based on a pentatonic scale, which we learn and then improvise bass accompaniments for.

As we move on, we will also explore the origins of Gospel and Soul music, learning some Negro spiritual slave songs and linking to our Black History Month studies.