

Year 4 Spring Newsletter 2017

This term, we will be learning about many new, exciting and interesting things. Have you ever wondered how a river makes its journey to the sea? Have you ever asked yourself what did the Romans do for us? Well, this term we aim to get some of those questions answered!

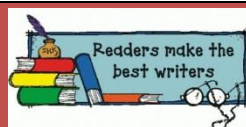
We will also be exploring many exciting key skills and knowledge in maths and literacy and are always keen to develop our learning from last term. Science lessons will give us the chance to explore solids, liquids and gasses, as well as electricity. In P.E, both Year 4 classes will be taking part in swimming lessons in addition to weekly P.E sessions.

We have some new school values this year which are incorporated into our everyday school ethos. These values are; unity, creativity, empathy, respect, aspiration and determination. Key stage assemblies will go into greater depth about what these values mean and look like in society.

We believe that a home/school link is extremely important so if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

We appreciate all of your support and look forward to the upcoming term!

Miss Balcombe and Miss Townsend



Literacy



As part of cross-curricular learning, the topics this term are Rivers and The Romans. The children will be reading key texts linked to these topics. We will be exploring many types of poetry and creating our own river poems. Our books of interest for poetry will be 'River Story' by Meredith Hooper and 'Water Dance' by Thomas Locke. We will also be looking at a variety of poems which will inspire our compositions. In addition, the children will continue to develop their ability to construct and begin their sentences in a variety of ways. We will also cover how to effectively use figurative language devices such as similes, metaphors, alliteration and personification.

We will also explore the features of newspaper reports and persuasive writing. In Spring 2, we will focus on adventure narratives, recounts and Roman myths.

The children will be taught grammar as part of their literacy lessons, together with spelling strategies – a test will take place every **Friday**.

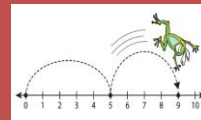
Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their literacy skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>



Mathematics



This term, Year 4 will continue to build upon our knowledge and understanding of number. We will be exploring negative and positive numbers in the context of temperature which will aid us when learning about 'Changing States' in Science. One aim for the end of year 4 is that everyone has confidence in their times tables (up to 12) so we will also be practising this during lessons.

We will also be learning about many other topics of mathematics including time, money, length, weight and shape. We will be delivering active, fun lessons aimed at building a solid foundation of understanding and knowledge.

Maths homework will be regularly given out on a Friday and is expected to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Additional learning homework (e.g. times tables) may sometimes be set during the week for a small test on the Friday.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their maths skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>



Science

In science we will be studying 'Changing States'. We will be exploring and investigating what happens when certain liquids, solids and gases cool down and heat up. Next half term we will be learning about electricity.

We will also be learning about the water cycle which links in with our river topic.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their science skills:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/materials/changing_states/read/1/



Humanities



This half term our Geography topic is: '*Why is the Thames and other rivers around the world important to London/their city?*' We will look at the different stages of a river and how they can be different. We will also be learning about famous rivers from around the world. Next half term we will be learning about 'The Romans' and how they have influenced the world today. We will be going on a trip to the Museum of London where we may even meet a real life Roman Soldier!

<http://www.dkfindout.com/uk/>



Computing

In addition to using ICT to research projects and present work across all subjects, skills will also be linked with our topics. We will be presenting topic work in the interactive world of 'Minecraft'.



Art/Design & Technology

We will be looking at art inspired by Rivers. We will also be exploring Roman mosaics and pottery.

We will be visiting the William Morris Gallery and taking part in a printing workshop.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their artistic skills:

<http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/index.html>

<http://www.disney.co.uk/disney-junior/art-attack/>

http://www.mykidsart.com.au/Vincent_van_Gogh_Famous_Artists_My_Kids_Art.html

<http://www.wmgallery.org.uk/learning/activities-online>



R.E.



In the 1st half term of Spring, year 4 will be learning about beliefs and practises in Sikhism. We will be looking at certain aspects of this religion such as; the Gurus, the Gurdwara and the Guru Granth Sahib.

In the second half term of Spring we will be exploring the values and beliefs in Christianity. We will learn about aspects of this religion such as celebrations, artefacts and Holy buildings.



PE

During this term Year 4 will be attending weekly swimming lessons at Waltham forest college. Sun in the 1st half term and Star in the 2nd. This will take place on **Friday afternoons (during school time)**.

They will be learning key skills such as:

- Floating and moving in the pool with and without aid
- Pacing themselves in floating and swimming challenges
- Swimming aided and unaided
- Recognising arm and leg actions
- Using a range of strokes.

The coaches from Leyton Orient will also be team teaching with teachers during weekly P.E sessions.



Home Learning

Homework will be handed out each Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Your child will receive:

- Weekly Maths homework
- For Literacy we will be giving out either reading comprehension or grammar activities to complete.
- Weekly spellings to be tested in class.
- Daily reading at their ability level to be recorded in their Reading Record books. By Year 4 many pupils will enjoy reading by themselves. However it is important that children still sometimes read out loud to their parents and discuss the storyline, as this is the best way of checking that children understand what they are reading and that they are pronouncing words correctly. Some children will be set Bug Club reading scheme books to complete online.
- The Spring 1 term Home Learning project is: Rivers
- The Spring 2 term Home Learning project is: The Romans