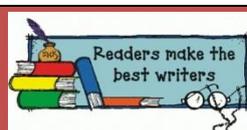


Year 4 Autumn Newsletter 2018

Welcome back to the Autumn term! This term we will be learning lots of new and exciting things. We try consistently to make teaching and learning relevant and fun. Our classroom culture is built on our values: respect, kindness, friendship, enthusiasm, teamwork, truth and encouragement. We will be talking about these words a great deal ensuring that each pupil feels valued, included, secure and excited about learning. We encourage good behaviour at all times and positive attitudes towards learning and school.

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would like to continue our excellent home/school relationships, and aim to provide high-quality information, clear communication and an 'open-door' policy.



Literacy



As part of cross-curricular learning, the topics this term are Volcanoes/Earthquakes and Stone Age life. The children will be reading key texts linked to these topics such as 'Ug' and 'Pebble in my Pocket'. We will be sequencing and writing stories, creating role plays and freeze frames and writing a non-chronological report. In addition, the children will learn how 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.

Moreover, in Whole Class Reading we will be exploring different fiction and non-fiction books by practising the different skills to comprehend these texts. We will discuss ideas and themes and rehearse how to answer specific question based on these texts.

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

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

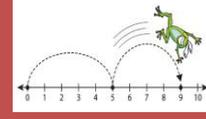
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-4>

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



Mathematics



This term, Year 4 pupils are going to begin by building upon their knowledge of number. We will be exploring different strategies that children can use to answer questions involving the four operations (+ - x ÷). This will also include practising 1 and 2 step word problems. Furthermore, this year sees the introduction of a national test for times tables in Year 4. Therefore, we will focus on learning our multiplication facts up to 12. The children will be given weekly multiplication table lists to practise at home. In this case, we would appreciate it if parents/carers assist in helping your children learn these.

Continuing our drive to make children confident mathematicians, we will be focusing on the skill explaining our answers as well as solving them.

For example: *'I know that $4 \times 4 = 16$ because....'* *'Therefore I know that 400×400 will be...'*

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

<https://uk.ixl.com/math/year-4>

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

<https://www.mathsisfun.com> The 'Math Trainer' is especially good at practising their times tables at speed.

<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 the human body. We will be exploring and investigating the role each part of the body plays in digesting food and the process it follows. The class will also learn about the bones in their bodies and understand why they are needed. The final focus will be on muscles, where they will learn about the different types of voluntary and involuntary muscles.

Next half term we will be looking at organisms and how they adapt to the local habitat.

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

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/htbw/DSmovie.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/living_things/plant_animal_habitats/read/1/

http://www.skyanimals.com/browse_habitat.cgi



Humanities



This half term our Geography topic is: *'What Makes The Earth Angry?'* We will look at the causes of natural disasters, the shift of tectonic plates, earthquakes and tsunamis. Additionally, we will focus on the positive and negative consequences of natural disasters. As part of this, we will be visiting The Natural History Museum to take part in a Volcano Workshop.

Next half term we will explore the life and times of the Romans in History.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to learn more about their topic:

[http://resources.woodlands-](http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains/volcanoeruptions.html)

[junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains/volcanoeruptions.html](http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/mountains/volcanoeruptions.html)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/earth/natural_disasters



Computing

In addition to using ICT to research projects and present their work across all subjects, our term topic will be learning how to program using Scratch. Scratch is a programming language that makes it easy to create interactive art, stories, simulation and games. We will also be exploring our new iPads using the learning apps.

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

www.scratch.mit.edu

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.light-bot.com

www.code.org

www.kodugamelab.com



Art/Design & Technology

We will be looking at art inspired by natural disasters. The children will be observing and recreating some popular pieces of art. We will be creating our own exploding volcanoes.

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

<https://sciencebob.com/make-your-own-volcano/>

<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



R.E.



This term in RE we will be studying Buddhism. The children will learn about the story of Buddha and his teachings. The children will be revisiting aspects of Buddhists' beliefs such as:

- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eightfold Path

We will also be learning about the Buddhist festival of Wesak.

Next term, we will be learning about what it is like to be a practising Sikh.



P.E.

P.E. for Supernova class will be on Friday.

This term we will be studying dance and choreographing a piece based on Volcanoes to the music of Holst's Planets Suite. We will also be participating in weekly runs (weather permitting) as part of the 'Coppermile'.

Please make sure your child wears their P.E. kit to school on this day. This must include shorts, jogging bottoms, a non-branded t-shirt and jumper in order to prepare for the indoor and outdoor activities. Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled to avoid any confusion when items are misplaced.



Home Learning

Maths, spellings and multiplication homework will be handed out each Friday. Maths homework is due in on the following Wednesday. It is vital that all homework is handed in on time. Your child will receive:

- Weekly Maths homework
- Weekly spellings and multiplication tests to be completed in class.
- Daily reading with a school/home book. The children will be encouraged to read independently and as a group. 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.
- To develop your child's understanding, you may ask questions such as:
 - *Why do think the character did that?*
 - *How do you know?*
 - *How do think the character feels?*
 - *What do you think might happen next?*
 - *Can you summarise what you have just read?*
- The Autumn term Home Learning project is: Volcanoes and Earthquakes



General notices/requests

Queries, worries or questions

If you have a concern or any questions, feel free to pop in and see us at the end of the school day at 3:30pm. We will be at the door ensuring children are safely dismissed.

Please be aware that time at the end of the day can be limited, so if you need to discuss anything in more detail, please call the school office on **020 8520 6267** to arrange an appointment. Alternatively, you can email the school at school@coppermill.waltham.sch.uk

Thank you for all your support. We look forward to an exciting term with your children!

Miss Townsend and Mrs Arribet