

Year 4 Autumn Newsletter 2017

Welcome back! We hope you all have had a relaxing break and are now excited to get stuck into all of the new learning opportunities year 4 has to offer. A focus this term will be the Earth and natural phenomena including earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. We will explore texts such as 'Stig of the Dump' as well as our prehistoric past and early human cultures.

We try consistently to make teaching and learning relevant and fun. Furthermore, our classroom culture is built on our school values: Unity, Creativity, Empathy, Respect, Determination and Aspiration. 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.

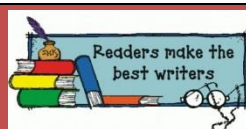
If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would like to continue our excellent home/school relationships, and aim to provide high-quality information and clear communication.

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 admin@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



Literacy



As part of cross-curricular learning, the topics this term are Volcanoes/Earthquakes. The children will be reading key texts linked to these topics such as 'Ug' and 'Stig of the Dump'. We will be sequencing and writing stories, creating role plays and freeze frames and writing a non-chronological report. In addition, pupils 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.

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

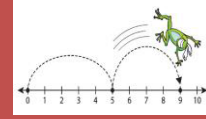
Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their literacy skills:

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

<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. Following on from this we will work on negative numbers.

We will be focusing on explaining our answers as well as solving them.

For example: 'I know that $4 \times 4 = 16$ because...'

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

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

<https://www.mathsisfun.com>

<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 look into the function and roles of the bones in the body. 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.

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

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

<http://resources.woodlands->

[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 to 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:

<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 R.E. we will be studying Buddhism. The children will be exploring aspects of Buddhist beliefs including:

- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eight-fold 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 Comet class will be on Fridays.

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



Home Learning

Maths and spellings homework will be handed out each Friday and 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 to be tested 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 think the character feels? How do you know?*
 - *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.