



Year 4 Autumn Newsletter 2019

Welcome to Year 4, Earth class! Autumn term marks the beginning of an exciting year for us.

Teaching and learning this year has been crafted specifically for your class and thus, will not only be relevant, but fun too.

Our classroom culture is built on Coppermill's values, but also on some values of our own: respect, kindness, friendship, enthusiasm, teamwork, truth and encouragement. We will be talking about these words a great deal throughout the year and ensuring that each of us feels valued, included, secure and excited about learning.

While we will always encourage good behaviour and positive attitudes towards learning and school, we will also have space to express our feelings; be they frustrations or hopes and dreams.

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

Here's to a wonderful year!

Ms Frank and Mr Muir



Literacy



As part of cross-curricular learning, the topic for this term is Roman life. The children will be reading key texts linked to these topics such as the first book in The Roman Mysteries series 'The Thieves of Ostia'. 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. For our topic literacy lessons in Autumn term 2 we will make a kennings poem and retell Beowulf.

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 on Monday and Tuesday, together with spelling.

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

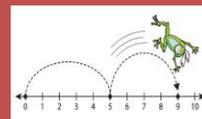
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<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

Friday mornings will now be dedicated to Science, giving us space to build skills in observing, pattern seeking, research, classification and comparative and fair testing. This term will be learning about solids, liquids and gases.

Autumn Term: Why don't we ever run out of water? [Changing States]

In this project, children will investigate the changes that occur when different materials change state between solid, liquid and gas. They will apply what they have learnt to the water cycle and use their scientific understanding to hypothesise about where our water comes from, and why it never seems to run out.



Humanities



We want children throughout the school to be able to build an overview of world history, understand when events happened in relation to each other and to be able to investigate and interpret the past.

Autumn 1: Did the Romans impact life in Britain?

In this unit, pupils will look at how Britain changed under Roman occupation. We will be looking at possible reasons why they invaded; how the other tribes living in Britain responded (such as Boudicca); what daily life was like; how towns were formed and what the Romans built around Britain. These lessons will teach key historical skills such as using sources and questioning and evaluating evidence.

Autumn 2: Was life better under the Anglo Saxons, the Scots or the Vikings?

Pupils start by looking at why the Romans left and what happened afterwards. Then will then investigate who the Anglo Saxons, Scots and Vikings were and why they come to England. We will look at Pagan belief systems and how these were adapted to the reintroduction of Christianity. We will then look at the Viking invasion of Lindisfarne and accounts of the Vikings to understand how they changed from invaders to settlers and the establishment of Danelaw. Pupils will have to investigate what everyday life was like under Saxon and Viking rule and decide which they would have preferred. Pupils will then use a range of sources and evidence to investigate whether the Vikings were raiders or settlers. We will finish the unit by looking at who was to blame for the invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066 and creating a comic strip Bayeux tapestry.



Computing

In addition to using ICT to research projects and present their work across all subjects, there will be a continued focus on online safety this year. As well as creating a Volcano presentation on Sway in Autumn term, we will be using Scratch after the half-term break. Scratch is a programming language that makes it easy to create interactive art, stories, simulation and games.

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

First half-term, we will be looking at Dutch still life painting (as well as the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo), focusing specifically on banquets, and linking art to our history curriculum. The children will be observing and recreating some popular pieces of art as well as painting their own still life work. We will explore Roman fashion and have our own Roman fashion show, before working together to create the weapons and armour of a Roman soldier from cardboard. No mean feat!

Next half-term, we will be creating our own mythical creatures in clay and papier-mâché while exploring the work of Constantin Brancusi.



R.E.

RE will be taught in a block at the end of each term with this term giving us the opportunity to explore **Sikh** rights of passage.

Children will share ideas about Sikhism and recap on previous learning. Children will then learn about the following events in more detail: naming ceremonies, baptism, marriage and life after death.



P.E.

P.E. for Earth class will be on Thursday.

This half-term we will introduce netball focusing on passing and teamwork.

Next half-term we have dance and choreographing a piece based on Volcanoes to the music of Holst's Planets Suite.

We will also be participating in a **weekly run on a Monday** (weather permitting) as part of the 'Coppermile'.

Please make sure your child wears their P.E. kit to school on Thursday. 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. Homework is due in on the following Tuesday. It is vital that all homework is handed in on time. Your child will receive:

- Weekly Maths homework
- Weekly spellings and multiplication
- Daily reading with a school/home book. The children will be encouraged to read independently and choose their own 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.
- 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 will be confirmed in Week 3



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!