



Year 4 Spring Newsletter 2020

Welcome back, Earth class!

The New Year brings many new topics and exciting activities for the children to get their teeth into. We have been very impressed by how Earth class have pulled together throughout autumn term and take joy in the way that they have grown to respect and care for one another in line with the classroom values we have encouraged since the beginning of the academic year.

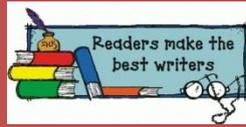
This term we focus on autonomy; supporting children to take responsibility for their own learning and providing them with the tools to become resilient and self-confident learners.

We will also be exploring one of Coppermill's core values – empathy – by looking into current events taking place across the world and why they are important.

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 Spring!

Ms Frank and Mr Muir



Literacy



As part of cross-curricular learning, the topic for this term is Anglo-Saxon life. As we got carried away with Roman myths last term, we will finally have an opportunity to study Beowulf this term and get to write those kennings poems alongside many other forms of poetry. We will be sequencing and writing stories, creating role plays and freeze frames and writing a non-chronological report. In addition, the children will continue to 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 literacy lessons in Spring term 2 we will be exploring another of Shakespeare's wonderful plays.

Moreover, in Whole Class Reading we will be going on an adventure with the intriguing Varjak Paw. We will practise different skills to comprehend this text; discuss ideas and themes and rehearse how to answer specific question based on the text.

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:

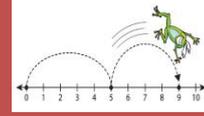
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<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 multiplication and division. We will consolidate our knowledge of multiplication facts up to 12 (we would appreciate it if parents/carers assist in helping your children learn these) and use these skills to explore measurement. We will then move on to developing the children's understanding of fractions and decimals.

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

Our wonderful Friday mornings of Science will continue as we build skills in observing, pattern seeking, research, classification and comparative and fair testing. Last term, pupil voice lessons led us into a unit on electricity, which we will continue at the children's request, before moving on to our term topic; learning about our bodies.

Spring: How does my body keep itself working? [Animals, including humans]

Throughout the term, children will investigate living things. They will apply what they have learnt to their own bodies and use their scientific understanding to hypothesise about how our bodies keep themselves working.



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.

After a wonderful in depth look at Roman life, our timeline will move forward to investigate and interpret the impact of the invading Anglo-Saxons in Spring 1, moving on to the Vikings in Spring 2 and comparing and contrasting life in Britain during each time period. These lessons will teach key historical skills such as using sources and questioning and evaluating evidence.

Spring: 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. Our cross-curricular links will see the children creating their own Anglo-Saxon settlement using minecraft.

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 explore embroidery and weaving during our dedicated Friday afternoon art lessons to further collate a fathomable image of Anglo-Saxon Britain. We will design Anglo-Saxon settlements and explore the pottery and hand-made items which were housed in them.

In Spring 2, Earth class will be in the enviable position of receiving art lessons from our current artist in residence, Ki Young.



R.E.



RE will be taught in a block at the end of each term with this term giving us the opportunity to explore **Hindu** worship at home and at the Mandir. Children will share ideas about Hinduism and recap on previous learning.



P.E.

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

This half-term we will continue exploring Ceilidh dancing before our party on January 24th.

Our swimming block begins on Monday 3rd February – Friday 14th February. Please request an email from the office if you have not received a letter from your child regarding swimming.

During Spring 2, we will be improving their bat and ball skills as we explore games such as: tennis, cricket and rounders.

We will also be participating in a **weekly run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays** (weather permitting) as part of the 'Coppermile'. Please ensure appropriate footwear.

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 Spring 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!