

Year 4 Newsletter

Friday 5th November 2021

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful start your children have made to their time in Year 4. We were so impressed with the mature and responsible way in which they returned to school, adapted to their new daily routines and settled straight back into their learning. Their resilience and resourcefulness when tackling tricky problems in maths has been particularly notable. Further, it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm for our novel study: Stormbreaker. The children have shown a clear understanding of the text through both reading and writing activities. In addition to this, the children have enjoyed many other areas of their learning including; making circuits in science, developing their P.E. skills with Xcite Sports and building on their musical ability during our weekly drumming sessions.

We are really looking forward to beginning our new languages topic this half term. We are confident that the children will soon be hooked on our new class text and will enjoy delving into the history of languages across the world. The half term's learning will be as follows:

Maths

This half term, our maths learning will focus on the areas listed below.

- Read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C) and know that over time, the numeral system changed to include the concept of zero and place value
- Column addition and subtraction
- Properties of addition and subtraction
- Checking calculations using the inverse operation
- Finding the whole
- Finding a part
- Finding the difference
- How much more and less

For each objective, children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills.

English

In English, we will be writing a play script, using our knowledge of our new text 'Beowulf' to inform the ideas for our writing. Further to this, we will be writing a persuasive letter of application, convincing one of the characters from the text to allow us to join their army. As we edge closer to Christmas, we will study and create some different forms of poetry.

Topic

This week, Year 4 will begin their 'languages' topic. The children will explore how storytellers have passed on information for centuries, sometimes through the spoken word and sometimes in writing. Working co-operatively, we will discover how people have worked together, communicating through signals and gestures, and later, words, in order to build complicated structures and materials. We will study Old-English, explore early writing implements and ancient alphabets such as Latin, Egyptian hieroglyphics and the Phonetian alphabet of the Ancient Greeks. In our science lessons, we will study sound. As part of this unit, we will investigate how sounds are made and how sound travels.

Home Learning Schedule

Topic

As we encourage independent learning in Year 4, we have set a number of research projects for your child to choose from and complete over a series of weeks. Please see the home learning letter for further details.

Reading

In Lower School, we aim to encourage children to acquire a love of reading. Part of this requires the children to be able to read fluently, so it is really important that you listen to your child read every day. This only needs to be for a short time each day, as little and often is the best approach when supporting your child with their reading. Your child will be asked to choose a book from the colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library. Our new, online reading diary will be monitored by an adult on a regular basis and the children will be able to change their books once a week, during class based reading sessions.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page, and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day**, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well. Every Friday, we will look at your child's online reading record and issue a 'smile' if they have read at least four times during the week.

In addition to reading their book at home, children have access to a 'Reading Eggs' account, which their class teacher will have shown them how to access. 'Reading Eggs' is an online program, which allows your child to develop their reading comprehension, with texts tailored to your child's individual reading ability. You can access the website at: <https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

Maths

We encourage children to practice their times tables on **Times Table Rock Stars**. Next June, children in Year 4 will sit the multiplication tables check. More details to follow.

PE Schedule

Year 4 will have their first PE slot on a Tuesday with Xcite. Their second slot will be on a Thursday (4EL and 4ZN) or Friday (4WN) with their class teacher. We ask that, on their P.E. days, children come to school in their P.E. kit. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirts, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), Black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor).

Twitter and Marvellous Me

If you would like to keep up-to-date with your child's learning in school, then check out the school's Twitter page. The account details are listed at the top of this letter. We also encourage you to track your child's learning on the Marvellous Me app.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs O.Nixon Mrs J.Winters Mrs Smith Mr Z.Nazir

(The Year 4 Team)