



Y4 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to welcome all the children and yourselves to Year 4. The children have already made a great start over the past two weeks and the year 4 team are very impressed with their efforts. We have an exciting year planned with some great learning ahead of us.

Staff working in year 4 this year are Lizzie Koerber and Leah Smith. In addition to the two of us, Sara Mitchell will be teaching maths on a Tuesday morning, Avtar Manku will be teaching **Djembe** on a Wednesday afternoon. and Lydia Virgin will be teaching **art** on a Thursday.

Our topic this term is '**Explore Romans**' and the children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of **British History** with a focus on The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain at the time and the legacy it left us, focusing on things that the Romans brought to Britain as well as how the Celtic population in Britain at the time responded to the Roman invasions. We will start by learning about how Rome was founded and then will go onto exploring the Roman Empire, where and how the Roman Army conquered other countries and Roman daily life.

Reading in year 4: Children in year 4 will be listened to by an adult in school on a regular basis and will have daily opportunities to read for pleasure within class. Please encourage your child to continue to read a wide range of texts regularly at home too and talk to them about it. I have attached a useful guide of recommended reads for year 4 with this letter.

All children in year 4 will be able to visit the school library once a week to choose a library book to take home. Our library day is **Thursday**. Please ensure your child brings their library book back to school on that day if they wish to borrow a different book. Of course, if they are still reading it then they may keep it at home until finished.

English: While we have settled into the year 4 classroom, we have begun reading our class novel 'Roman Boy' by Tony Bradman. This book will be our focus over the next few weeks as we build up to writing a historical narrative. We have started focusing on how the author creates images in the readers mind through description and we will be writing our own descriptive sentences exploring settings and character's feelings. As we get further into the book we will be thinking about how similes and metaphors are used to create powerful images in the reader's mind.

Using what we have learnt, we will continue focusing on imagery and creating images in the readers mind when we explore poetry. We will focus on 'I am a Roman Soldier' by Joasiah Wedgewood and look at the structure of his poem to use as a basis for our own. We will be using determiners, prepositions, adverbials and expanded noun phrases in our work.

As the children begin to understand The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, we will use 'Roman Diary, The Journal of Iliona a young slave' by Richard Platt to create a writing opportunity as they imagine themselves to be a Roman slave for a week. They will be encouraged to think about time adverbials, comparative conjunctions and rhetorical questions. They will write effective sentences for a historical diary which will draw the reader in to their inner thoughts and feelings.

As we progress throughout the term we will continue to use our topic to inspire our non-fiction writing as well as our fictional writing. We will be writing a biography on Boudicca as we learn about how she led the Iceni tribe into battle against the Roman's in Britain. The children will be encouraged to identify the key features of biographies before incorporating these into their own work.

Spelling: Our spelling work will include consolidating and building on the spelling rules we have already learnt in previous years and moving on to looking at the year 4 spelling rules. To reinforce this learning the children will have a weekly spelling test based upon the year 4 spelling rules which they will practise throughout the week. In addition to practising in school it would be helpful if the children can practise these at home too. And so, with that in mind, children will be sent home with a spelling list to practise (**every Monday**) in preparation for a spelling check which will take place on the Friday of the same week. In year 4 the children have a spelling test book which they will write their weekly spellings into, and they will also use this book for the test. It is therefore important that this book is in school on the days given. I am also sending home a list of common exception words associated with year 3/4 (see attached sheet). These are words that the children are expected to know so, whilst we will look at them in school on a regular basis, it would be great if you could practise these with your child at home too.

Maths: We will begin the term working on place value. The children will have the opportunity to explore and use a variety of representations (including measures) to become fluent in the order and place value of numbers beyond 1,000, including counting in 10s and 100s We will then move on to addition and subtraction with numbers up to 4-digits using the formal methods of column addition and subtraction where possible. We will then look at area, thinking about counting squares, making shapes and comparing area before moving on to focusing on multiplication and division. During this time, the children will continue to practise

recalling and using multiplication tables and related division facts to aid fluency, practise mental methods and become fluent in the formal written method of short multiplication and short division.

Problem solving and reasoning will continue to be an important part of all our maths when the children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills independently and to persevere when they are stuck.

We need to be secure in all our times tables by the end of year 4. This term will be spent revisiting those learnt in year 2 and 3 initially before moving on to the remaining ones. These will become part of our daily routine to practise so that the children are able to instantly recall facts.

Science: During the first half of the term, the children will be learning about sound. They will be investigating pitch and volume through exploring a wide range of musical instruments and they will be learning about the hearing of humans and other animals. The children will be finding out all about electricity in the second half of the term. They will be identifying the dangers associated with electricity in the home, finding out which materials are good conductors and those which aren't through investigation and then using this information to construct simple circuits.

The children will be developing their geographical skills and fieldwork in **geography**. They will take part in a series of activities to improve their knowledge and understanding of map symbols, keys, compass directions, and grid references through a series of challenges.

In **Computing**, we will be using the software programme 'Scratch' to develop an educational game and we will be using the Chromebooks to undertake research for our topic-based writing.

In **R.E** we will be asking the question 'How are important events remembered?' Our Christian value is 'RESPECT' and we'll be learning what this is and what it looks like throughout the year.

In **PSHCE** our topics include 'new beginnings'. We will also be thinking about our school principles; 'Be kind, Be safe, Be your best'.

In **Art/DT** the children will be developing their own Roman mosaics, looking at pattern and texture amongst other things.

The focus for **P.E.** this term are invasion games, dance and wall and net games. We will be developing our skills in football, exploring the Flamenco and how we can move our bodies expressively as well as practising and developing our skills in tennis and dodgeball. **P.E. will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays.** Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school. PE kit consists of a plain or Shire Oak white or purple t-shirt and black shorts. (We will aim to have PE outdoors as often as possible this term so joggers and a sweatshirt/hoodie would be useful. No football strips or similar please. As always, please make sure that everything is labelled and placed in a named bag. We prefer kit to stay at school for the full half term. It can be washed in the half term holiday!

Trips and visitors – We are hoping to arrange a visitor to support our topic focus - TBC

Water Bottles - Please remember to send your child in with a filled water bottle **every morning**. These are refilled during the day as and when needed.

Milk - If you want your child to have milk, please make sure you log onto "Cool Milk Limited", if you didn't register last year, the office can give you more details.

How you can help –

- Regular reading with your child is still an essential skill in Year 4. Listening to your child read at least three times a week for 10 minutes will be of real benefit to your child's learning.
- Consolidation of times table facts.
- Practising spellings.
- Practising handwriting.

You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you, we look forward to working with you and your child this year, do ask if you have any queries throughout the term.

The Year 4 team.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

HERD FARM RESIDENTIAL – MONDAY 13th January 2024 – Wednesday 15th January 2025

