




Year 4 Newsletter Autumn Term


Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome to Year 4! I look forward to the year ahead. It will bring both hard work and lots of fun, enjoyable experiences. Here is an outline of the curriculum that the children will be following this term as well as other key information that should help us along the way.

Literacy 	Text work	Fiction	Stories from other cultures and with historical settings. These will be linked with our Egyptian and Victorian aspects of our time travellers topic.
		Non-Fiction	Features of non fiction texts, in particular information and explanation texts. These topics will cover essential skills such as note-taking and editing.
	Sentence work	Grammar and punctuation will focus on the revision of previous learning including adjectives and connectives. We will move onto learning about verbs and adverbs and the use of commas in a list. The focus of this work will be to improve the quality of sentences including the use of exciting vocabulary and extra information in sentences.	
	Word work	Spellings will consist of mis-spelled words from their own writing as well as learning how to spell two syllable words containing double consonants, distinguishing between the spelling and meaning of common homophones, spelling of regular verb endings and recognising how to spell words ending in common suffixes. The children will be grouped according to their ability for spellings. They will be given words to learn on a Wednesday and will be tested on these the following Wednesday. To support the children in this the children will asked to write sentences including these words and will be taught strategies such as look-cover-say-write-check in order to learn them.	
Handwriting	Children will also be encouraged to develop correct formation and positioning tall and long letters as well as joining letters in their writing. We will continue to practice this regularly.		

Numeracy 	<p>This terms topics will include: place value, ordering and rounding, doubling and halving numbers, addition and subtraction, reading from scales, money & real-life problems, measures including problems, shape & pace, counting & properties of number, multiplication & division, fractions, time including problems and handling data. Mental strategies and, more importantly, knowing their tables and related division facts will be essential to the children's mathematical development. To support them this the children will be given a table to learn weekly and will be tested on this, it would be helpful if you could support your child with this.</p>
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Science 	<p>During the first half term:</p> <p>Friction- during this topic the children will learn: To understand that friction can be useful. To know that 'Newton' is the unit of force, that there is a force between an object and a surface which may prevent the object moving, that the force between two moving surfaces in contact is called friction, that water resistance slows an object moving through water and know that air resistance is a force that slows objects moving through air.</p> <p>Circuits and Conductors- during this topic the children will learn: That a circuit needs the be complete and needs a power source, circuits can be powered by mains and battery sources, some materials are better conductors than others, some materials allow electricity to pass through them, about electrical safety and how changing components in a circuit can affect the output or other components.</p> <p>During all science topics the children will: make suggestions and predictions, decide what evidence to collect, plan and carry out fair tests by changing one factor, make comparisons indicating whether results support the predictions made.</p>
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	<p>Creative Curriculum: This will incorporate history, geography, ICT, design and technology, art and music. To begin with the children will be designing and making table top time machines and using ICT to assist in the process. We will then move onto learning about the way of life for ancient Egyptians and comparing this to Egypt today. They will listen to and compose Egyptian music and create art work linked to Egyptian</p>
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lifestyles. Later on in the term the children will compare rich and poor children in Victorian times, read Victorian stories and plays, learn rhymes and songs from the period and use ICT to produce patterns in the style of William Morris. To support our learning we will also be taking a trip to Shugborough Hall on Tuesday 23rd November to learn more about Victoria Christmas for rich and poor children and the children will make a Victorian Christmas cards and other Victorian decorations.. As part of this day children will be invited to dress in Victoria costume but more information on this will follow.

French: The children will be continuing with their learning of French. They will have one lesson per week which will revise previous learning and extend to include new vocabulary and understanding.

RE: The theme for the first half term is to investigate the importance for believers of ceremonies in which special moments are marked and later on in the term we will explore the diversity of a range of religious traditions and identify similarities and differences in these.

PE: This half term Year 4 will be swimming on a Thursday afternoon. We will be leaving school at 1:15pm and returning later in the afternoon. Please could you ensure that the children have swimming costumes or shorts, a towel, a swimming hat and goggles (if required) with them. Games will still be on a Friday afternoon. In games this term, the children will take part in three weekly blocks of hockey, cross country, football and netball. As the weather starts get colder the children will need outdoor kit, preferably a track suit and trousers and all jewellery, including ear rings, must be taken out before PE as a safety precaution.

Reading: We will endeavour to hear your child read at school at least once a week. As reading is so important for all children, it will be helpful and beneficial if you could continue to hear your child read at home at least twice a week as part of their homework. All of the children will be able to borrow books from both the school library and the County Library van, which continues to visit the school on Friday mornings.

Homework: The children will be using their homework diaries to record their homework for the week. Homework will give the children opportunity to consolidate work they have been doing in school during the week. If your child has any problems with their homework please use the homework diary to inform me of this. We can then ensure that we can support them with this in school.



Homework will consist of spellings on a Wednesday to learn for the following week. On Friday they will be given both Literacy and Numeracy homework which is to be handed in the following Wednesday. The children have Literacy and Numeracy homework books for this to be completed in and if the work comes on a sheet please encourage your child to stick the sheet into the correct book so that it is secure.

ICT: In addition to ICT that will be used as part of our creative curriculum topic, as a school, we have also signed up for the Staffordshire Virtual Learning Platform. The children will receive a log in code and will be able to use this site to safely access a virtual learning experience on line providing a space for the children to learn, communicate and access information. This will be introduced to the children during the next few weeks and more information regarding this will follow.

If, at any time there are any problems or anything that you are unsure about, please do not hesitate in coming in to see me either before or after school or by contacting the school office. We value your support in ensuring that we give your child the opportunity to achieve their full potential and enjoy the process in doing this.

Thank you,

Miss S Wakefield.

Useful websites:

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths> for Numeracy and tables practice

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/wholenumbers/> for Numeracy and tables practice

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/> for time tables practice

http://www.multiplication.com/interactive_games.htm for times table practice

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/> for reading, writing and spelling

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html> for Literacy

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/> for Numeracy, Literacy and Science

Once the Virtual Learning Platform is up and running many more web sites will be recommended in order to support the children's learning.

