



Year 4 Spring Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. I can't believe we are half way through Year 4. Time is really flying by.

Below is an overview of what we have to look forward to this half term:

In geography we are exploring the topic of 'Rivers and the Water Cycle'. This topic will revisit some of the knowledge learnt in our Science topic of States of Matter, looking at evaporation and condensation. Children will be able to identify features of rivers and understand their role in urban areas. We will be applying what we have learnt to the River Trent.

In English we will be writing a description using the book 'The Flood'. This is an amazing picture book without words, which enables the children to really develop their descriptive skills using a wide range of vocabulary. We will then be using the idea of water to read and write poetry. We will continue to read 'The Anglo-Saxon Boy' concentrating on developing our inference, summarising and explanation skills.

In science we are undertaking a physics topic looking at electricity. This dovetails in nicely with last half term's design and technology topic of making a working torch. This will give the children the opportunity to hone their skills and apply the theory to the practice they already know.

This term the maths curriculum will continue to look at division and area and then progress to decimals and fractions. Times table skills are crucial for these topics. Children will benefit greatly from regularly using TT Rockstars. It is an expectation that children in Year 4 know their times tables up to 12 and daily TT Rockstars will help support this. **There will be a national times tables test in June for all Year 4s** and therefore regular practice is essential. **It is important that children aren't simply practising the easier times tables, rather spending their time becoming fluent with the times tables that they are not as familiar with.** If your child is having problems accessing TT Rockstars, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In art we will be working on our painting skills, the final result painting a 3D composition using tinting and shading. I am looking forward to seeing their finished pieces.

We will be continuing learning French looking at expanding the children's knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. In computing the children will continue to develop their skills of programming using Scratch and then complete a unit on internet research. R.E. will focus on the idea of forgiveness, looking at Christianity and Easter. Personal Development (PD -formerly PSHE) will be the topic of Healthy Me. We will explore what it means to have healthy friendships, as well as learning about the effects of alcohol and cigarettes.

P.E. will be on Tuesdays and Fridays with the great opportunity of the sports coach continuing to teach us on Fridays. The sports this half term are gymnastics and tennis. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for outdoor PE.

We are so lucky that the children have Forest School again this half term. They will be outside in Forest School on alternate Wednesday afternoons and will need warm clothes which you don't mind getting dirty. A coat will be needed. If children have waterproof trousers they can bring these, but they will be provided if not. If children can bring wellies, that would be the most suitable footwear, but we do have some wellies that we can provide. The children will be outside no matter what the weather. Our first session will be Wednesday 22nd February.

Other exciting news this half term is that we will be participating in The Great Orchestra Experiment and an Aspiration Day at the University of Nottingham. More details about these will follow shortly.

It is still an expectation that children read at least 5 times a week (either independently or to an adult). We will be monitoring reading diaries regularly. School reading books and diaries need to be in school every day. We place such an emphasis on reading with our use of the school library and visits to Wollaton library, so support at home is appreciated.

Class Dojo still remains as the primary way to communicate with you. If you are having problems accessing it, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hebbs

Class 4 Teacher