



Year 4 Summer Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. We are now into our final term of Year 4. Here's hoping for some lovely weather.

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

In history we are exploring the topic of 'The Vikings'. This topic will link with our recent topic of 'Anglo-Saxon Britain'. Children will learn about the reasons that the Vikings settled in Britain and look at the importance of primary sources and recent archaeological finds. We are hoping to really bring this topic to life through a trip to the Jorvik Viking Museum in York in July. More details about this trip will follow.

In English we will be using a non-fiction book 'The Elephant' by Jenni Desmond to link with our Science topic of 'Who are you?' It is a beautiful book which I know the children will love. We will then be honing our diary writing skills through the reading of the classic 'Oliver Twist'. The version we read is an Usborne Young Reader and is always greatly loved. We will continue to read 'The Anglo-Saxon Boy' in our reading lessons – children have been really gripped by this tale and we look forward to finding the fate of Magnus, the main character.

In science we are undertaking a biology topic called 'Who are you?'. This looks at classification and invertebrates and vertebrates. We will explore the use of classification keys in science and expand our knowledge of food webs.

This term the maths curriculum will continue to look at fractions and decimals. Times table skills are crucial for the topic of fractions. 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 design and technology, we will be designing our own slingshot cars, looking at the topic of mechanisms. I know children will love this unit and will rise to the challenge of problem solving as they did in the previous design and technology unit of making torches. I look forward to watching the final products shoot across the classroom!

We will be continuing learning French looking at expanding the children's knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. In computing we will continue developing our internet research skills and then progress to data handling, using Edexcel. R.E. will focus on the idea of commitment through the religion of Judaism. Personal Development (PD -formerly PSHE) will be the topic of Relationships. We will explore who is special to us and why and discuss feelings of jealousy, dovetailing this with our Zones of Regulation. We will continue our flute or guitar lessons on Tuesdays – I am sure the children will be inspired after our recent Great Orchestra Experiment experience.

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 rounders and cricket. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for outdoor PE.

We will be starting this half term with a trip to the University of Nottingham for our Aspiration Day. This will be on Friday April 21st. Please return your permission form if you haven't already done so. Smart school uniform is required.

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