

Autumn 1

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter



First of all, welcome back to the start of another fantastic year! The children all look so smart in their uniforms and have settled back into the usual routines with smiles and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to parents for being so organised with PE kits and homework!

Topic/ Science

Our topic this half term is Geography based and is called "Extreme Earth". Throughout this topic the children will be building on their volcano knowledge from year three and learning how other natural disasters are caused. In science we are focusing on Biology and learning about the living things of the world. During this time children will investigate vertebrates and invertebrates and will become more familiar with the animal classification system.

Writing

This year the children have kicked off the term by re-visiting descriptive writing. They have been focusing on the senses when describing a setting and having a go at using figurative language such as: similes, metaphors and personification. Also they have been learning how to add more detail through word choices and varying their sentence constructions. To finish this topic the children will be applying their news skills and writing a final piece about a natural disaster. After this we will be moving on to non-fiction and learning how to write engaging and informative explanation texts on volcanoes, earthquakes or tsunamis.

Reading

At the moment our year group is reading "How To Train Your Dragon" by Cressida Cowell. This is a fun and adventurous tale that has captured the imaginations of the children. They have enjoyed being read to and reading the chapters themselves. During our guided reading sessions we will be focusing on: looking for information, discussing the author's choice of language and investigating how she makes the characters and settings come alive in the reader's mind. After this we will be looking at some geographical and fantasy explanation texts to support our writing.



Maths

The start of the year has focused very much on Number and Place Value—asking what is this number worth? What does this digit represent? We have increased our range up to numbers with 4 digits and have begun to look at our understanding of the four operations.

To start with we have focused on addition and subtraction and will be applying these skills in our problem solving sessions. We will then be moving on to revising and learning a variety of methods for multiplication and division. We would ask that you help your children with their times table practice as knowing their times tables is crucial when solving problems mentally.

R.E.

The children have just begun a topic re-visiting and building on their knowledge of Christianity. The themes covered will be: special places, festivals, holy books and finally symbols and meanings.

P.E.

We are lucky enough to have Mr Mortimer take our PE lessons in Year 4. This half term the children will be consolidating the skills they have been taught previously and applying them in small match situations. After this we will be moving on to hockey and netball.

Music

We also have the joy of Mrs Mattis leading our music sessions this year. We are focusing on singing and performance. At the moment, we are having very exciting talks, trying to decide on the theme of this year's, Year Four Musical Production. Watch this space!

ICT

Children will be given the opportunity to use the green screen to create some dramatic natural disaster pictures to accompany their writing units.

Each week your child will bring home a selection of spellings and times tables to learn. We would ask that you help your child with these if possible. If you have any questions, please come and speak to a member of the Year 4 team.

Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Brown and Mr Winterman