



Aboyne Lodge School
Etna Road, St. Albans. AL3 5NL
(01727) 766117

Year 4 Newsletter –Autumn term (1) 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first Year 4 newsletter. We hope to see as many of you as can make it to our **'New to Year 4' meeting** this Wednesday (5th September) at 9am in our classroom (old music room).

The Y4 staff are: Mrs Amanda Handley who teaches from Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Deryn Grisenthwaite who teaches from Wednesday to Friday.

Here is a brief summary of the topics that we will cover this first half term.

Literacy: We will start by exploring free-form poetry and alongside this will be reading and exploring issues in the book *Krindlekrax* by Philip Ridley. Later in the term we will also be writing reports as part of our non-fiction study and linking with topic work.

Maths: The maths topics for this half term are as follows:

Place value and rounding; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division; measure, data-handling and perimeter.

These topics may be subject to slight change as the term progresses.

Science: This half term's project is 'All Living Things and Animals'. We will be learning how living things can be classified and why this is important.

Geography: Our topic this half term is 'Italy today'. Here we will be learning about modern day Italy, including its culture and geography.

D&T (Design and Technology): Here we will be looking at foods of the world and specifically, food from Italy as well as that which is in season in Britain at different times of the year.

Computing: Our focus at the start of the year is how to use coding and programming software to create mini programs.

Religious Education: The big question we will be exploring in RE this half term is 'What is Love?'

Music: Within our Music lessons the children will be learning how to play the ukulele with Miss Kelly.

P.E. (Physical Education): Y4 PE will be on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Please ensure your child has full PE kit in school at all times (as the PE timetable can change at short notice). All parts of the kit should have their names written in and tracksuit trousers and jumpers will be useful for outdoor lessons as the weather gets colder.

Homework

Please ensure your child completes all homework that has been set. Do feel able to support the homework tasks, but please allow them to work at their own ability level as this will help inform our understanding of your child's progress and attainment. We expect each piece to be returned fully completed and on time although if your child is finding work too difficult or too easy please do let us know.

The children will have **TWO** homework books:

1. **Literacy homework book:** This will come home every Wednesday, to be returned on the following Monday (starting from week 2). It will have two types of task each week: one will be a writing or grammar task linked to our literacy lessons and the other will be a spelling task. The spelling work will link with the spelling lessons we have in class during the week and will also include some words from the year 3/4 national curriculum list of 100 words to be learned over the two years.
2. **Maths homework book:** This will come home on Fridays, to be completed over the weekend and returned on Wednesday.

Other homework tasks may be supplied on an ad-hoc basis, depending on topic work at the time.

Please hear your child **read** regularly at home, whether they are using colour banded books or are reading a book of their own choice. Whilst sharing a book, please ask your child questions that will encourage them to practise and use the skill of 'inference'. By this we mean asking them to say 'why' they think something is happening in that way in the story, or what might be happening next. While doing this, please challenge them to find evidence in the text to back up their ideas.

Thank you for providing your children with their own **named** stationery (black gel writing pen, an HB pencil and a stick of glue) – it makes a big difference already for the children to be responsible for their own equipment.

Finally, you will be aware that, due to severe budgetary constraints, our teaching assistant resource has had to be cut back throughout the school. This means that we will struggle to carry out many regular but necessary tasks, including but not limited to: hearing readers, helping with spelling and times-table practice. If you feel you can give regular time to support with these activities we would really appreciate hearing from you. Please come to see us before or after school.

We have an open door policy at Aboyne so do pop in and see us if you have any concerns or wish to discuss something.

With kind regards,

Amanda Handley

Deryn Grisenthwaite