



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Year 4 Newsletter – Spring term (1) 2019

Dear Parents and Children,

First of all, Happy New Year and we hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday.

Our curriculum topics for this half term are as follows:

Literacy: We will start with a unit on narrative poetry, where we will study the wonderful poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. After this, we will move on to the genre of Persuasive Writing.

Maths: The Maths topics for this half term are as follows: measures, data handling, perimeters, shape and symmetry, decimals and fractions.

Science: This half term project is 'Sound'. We will be learning about vibrations and how sound travels. We will be using musical instruments to understand how sounds can vary according to the size and type of the sound source. The children will discover the relationship between volume and strength of vibrations.

Computing: Our unit for the spring term is called 'Authoring' and has the children using a variety of different software to create digital content, understanding some of the differences between them. They select and use software to create documents and presentations for specific audiences and objectives.

Topic work (History): We will be learning about 'Ancient Civilisations'. Our focus will be the achievements of the earliest civilizations and how these have impacted on our lives today. We will touch upon the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China. (We will be making an in depth study of Ancient Greece later in the year.)

Art/D&T: We will continue our work on drawing techniques and will also link it to other curriculum areas this half term.

Religious Education: We will be looking at what it means to belong to a community, this term. We will take our learning on to Sikhism and the traditions.

P.E. (Physical Education): Tuesday lessons will be with Mrs Handley and we will be doing gymnastics in the hall. Friday lessons with Mrs Grisenthwaite will be dance in the hall. As always, please help your child remember to have **labelled** PE kit in school every day, as timetables are often subject to change.

Homework

A separate letter will be coming home about the new on-line homework system we are trialling across the school.

Please continue to ensure your child completes all homework that has been set and that it is completed **on time**. Spelling work is marked and new work stuck in on a specific day and if work is handed in late, it

may not be marked. Parents often ask what they can do to help from home. Please ask your child to share the homework completed each week.

As a reminder, this is the timetable for homework in Year 4:

- Maths homework will be set on Fridays, to be completed by the following Wednesday.
- Spelling homework comes home every Wednesday, to be returned on the following Monday.
- The new reading homework will be set at the start of each new half term.
- Other homework tasks may be supplied on an ad-hoc basis, depending on topic work at the time.

If your child experiences any problems with the homework, please write a note in their books and we will speak with them to sort it out.

Stationery

Thank you for monitoring your child's pencil cases. Please make sure the children don't bring in novelty pens, rubbers etc, as these tend to be a big distraction to work. As a reminder, the children should be writing with a black roller ball ink pen, or similar (e.g. Uni-ball). Pilot Frixion pens are particularly good for left-handers as the ink does not smudge as much.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents who have been coming in to help with trips, work on spellings and test times tables. Your help is very much appreciated.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions regarding your child or their work, do not hesitate to come to see us.

With kind regards,

Amanda Handley and Deryn Grisenthwaite