



## Year 4 Newsletter – Spring term (2) 2018

Dear Parents and Children,

We hope you have had a good half-term break and that the children are rested and raring to go!

We are delighted to tell you that we have a 3<sup>rd</sup> year B.Ed student from Hertfordshire University joining us this term and for part of the term following Easter. Her name is Savannah Farley and she has spent this week working with us, getting to know the children and how we do things here at Aboyne Lodge. Miss Farley will be taking on increasing amounts of the lesson planning and teaching, closely supported by us.

This second half term is 6 weeks long and during this time, as well as our curriculum subjects, we will be working with Y3 and Y5 to practise our KS2 production, to be shown in the last week (more details below.) Here is an outline of our curriculum topics this second half term:

**Literacy:** We will be making a start of the non-fiction genre of 'Persuasion' where we will be learning to identify the pros and cons in an argument and how to put these across in a balanced and clear way. We will base our learning around a number of topical issues that are of interest to the children.

**Maths:** We will be practising working with decimals, fractions, money and measures for the first few weeks. Then we will be moving on to multiplication and division.

**Science:** We will be learning about some of the positive and negative ways that humans change the environment, locally and globally, with a particular focus on how this affects other living things. This will be related to a developing understanding of food chains and what happens if food chains are broken by habitat disruption or the removal of a species from an ecosystem. We will also be learning about teeth and eating.

**Computing:** We will continue this term's unit on 'Authoring': understanding how to save, categorise and organise our work on a computer; learning some of the differences between key software programs that we use regularly; and how to use these to create documents and presentations for specific audiences and objectives.

**Topic work (Geography):** We are going to learn about countries of the world around us: how they are described and located, according to geographical zones and regions. We will be learning about features such as hemispheres, important dissecting lines and mapping co-ordinates.

**D&T:** Our focus is a purse-making project. We will explore purses and wallets, then will design a money container. We will go on to make this, using simple sewing techniques. When we get to the 'making' stage, it would be enormous help if there are any adults who could spare an afternoon to help the children with their sewing. We will send out a note nearer the time to request help.

**Religious Education:** Our focus will be 'Justice and Fairness' and we will be looking at the stories, beliefs and symbols associated with Sikhism.

**PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education):** In PSHE this term our focus is learning that it is 'Good to be me'. This theme is the first of two focusing specifically on feelings. It explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self-awareness and helping the child to realise that it really is 'Good to be me'.

**P.E. (Physical Education):** Mrs Etheridge will continue to teach country dancing, although some of these sessions will be replaced with singing and dance rehearsals for our production as we get nearer the time. Please help your child remember to have **labelled** PE kit in school every day however, as timetables are often subject to change.

### **Homework**

Please continue to take an interest in the homework tasks that have been set and check if your child needs any support with them. We need the work to be handed in **on time** so it can be marked. We maintain a register of homework completed on time and, if a child repeatedly fails to do the work or fails to hand it in on time, we may be asking them to do it during their playtime in school instead.

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

- Maths homework comes home on Fridays, to be returned the following Wednesday. Please continue with your child to practise times tables regularly, using Times Tables Rock Stars.
- Literacy and spelling homework comes home every Wednesday, to be returned on the following Monday.
- Other homework tasks may be supplied on an ad-hoc basis, depending on topic work at the time.

Optional extension tasks for both literacy and maths will sometimes be set or offered. 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**

Please ensure your child has this basic equipment at school at all times, replacing it regularly as required please:

- a glue stick
- a black roller ball ink pen, or similar
- a pencil;
- a short ruler;
- a basic rubber
- coloured pencils/felt-tips for drawing.
- sharpener

A number of children are still regularly relying on their friends to supply them with a pen and glue, which we're sure you will agree is not satisfactory.

**Some useful dates:**

The detail for these events has/will come out on separate letters from school but we thought it would be useful to include them here:

- ✓ w/c 26th February: book-related activities, focused around World Book Day
- ✓ Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February: visit to St Albans library in the morning (please bring library card if your child has one or completed membership form if not)
- ✓ Thursday 1st March: Dressing-up for World Book Day
- ✓ Wednesday 7th March: Parents' evening (1)
- ✓ Thursday 15th March: Parents' evening (2)
- ✓ Monday 26th March: KS2 production dress rehearsal to the school
- ✓ Tuesday 27th March: 1.45pm afternoon production to parents and families
- ✓ Wednesday 28th March: 6.30pm evening production to parents and families
- ✓ Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March: term ends 1.30pm

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

With kind regards,

*Amanda Handley and Deryn Grisenthwaite*