

Year 4 Class Newsletter

Term 2

We hope that you all had a good half term and that the children have been looking forward to returning to school for Term 2.

This term, we will be delivering some of the foundation subjects as part of a blocked curriculum. For example, instead of having one geography lesson each week, we will have one week where we have geography every afternoon. This will allow the children to become fully immersed in the topic being covered.

English

This term, we will begin by writing historical recounts about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the destruction of the Roman city of Pompeii. Later in the term, we will learn about the features and structure of adventure stories, leading up to writing our own. We will also continue building up our stamina for writing by continuing to write for longer periods, and will spend time each week focusing on the spellings, punctuation and grammar for our year group.



Maths

This term, our maths lessons will focus on column subtraction, exploring fractions and decimals and converting between them, finding the perimeter of shapes and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. The children will continue consolidating their knowledge of the times tables learned so far, before learning the remaining facts up to 12 x 12 so that they can recall them fluently.

Science

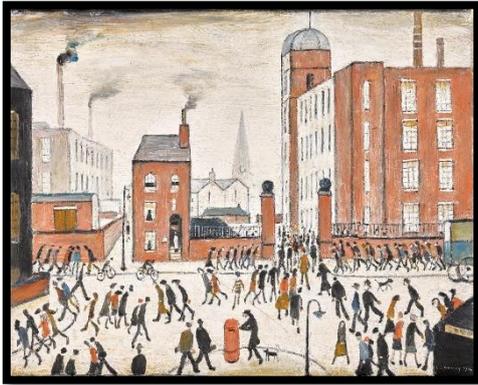
Our science topic for this term is States of Matter. As part of this topic, we will learn about solids, liquids and gases and carry out a number of fun investigations.

PE

Please note: Change of PE day

This term, our PE lessons will be on a Wednesday. Each Wednesday, **the children should come to school in their PE kit, which they will stay in all day**. This will mean that they won't need to get changed in school and will reduce the risk of others accidentally touching their clothing or putting on items belonging to others. Please make sure that your child is wearing a suitable PE kit for the weather that day, ensuring they will be warm if the lesson takes place outside. Please don't worry if you forget, or if children are wearing PE kit and we don't end up doing the lesson – sometimes circumstances in school can require us to be flexible with our time table.

Foundation Subjects



Computing – In computing we will be developing our word processing skills.

Art – This term, we will be learning about Lowry and developing our drawing skills in order to create a piece of art inspired by his work.

Geography – We will be finding out about volcanoes, including their features, how they are made and the different types.

Music – We will be learning to sing the song Lean on Me, as well as exploring tempo and rhythm.

RE – We will start answering the question ‘Why are festivals important to religious communities?’ beginning with Diwali and Christmas this term.

PSHE – Our Jigsaw unit this term is ‘Celebrating Difference’ and our mascot is the Respectful Raven.

Latin – We will continue with our new Latin scheme of work, adding to our vocabulary and continuing to make links with the English language.

Reading

Reading is an important part of the curriculum and, as such, we believe that continuing to read with your child daily can improve their reading skills significantly. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could read with your child as often as possible. This does not have to be your child reading to you, it could include sharing a book and discussing the content, as this helps tremendously with comprehension.



This year we have started using the online reading record GoRead. Please continue to log any reading you do at home on here. If you have any difficulties accessing it, or have lost your log in details, please let us know.

Homework

At home, it benefits the children greatly to practise reading, their times tables and their spellings as often as possible.

This year, each class has a set of spelling patterns to focus on throughout the year. Some spelling patterns will be learned and practised over several weeks. Spelling words will still be sent home in spelling books on a Monday, but the children’s progress will be assessed in class when appropriate, rather than through weekly spelling tests. Children are encouraged

to practise the spelling words in their books and to bring them in each week so that the new words can be added.

Times tables can be practised using Times Table Rock Stars and the following website:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

<https://trockstars.com/>

We will be using these in school, so the children should be familiar with how to use them.

In addition to this, there will be optional homework that can be completed in relation to the work we are doing in school. This can be handed in at any time during the term. The following are a list of ideas for your child to choose from:

- Build a model of a volcano – there are lots of instructions and videos for how to do this online and you could even make one that erupts! We would love to see photographs.
- The Jewish festival of Hanukkah starts on the 28th of November this year. Can you find out some facts about this festival and present them in an interesting way?
- Imagine you are visiting a volcano when it erupts. Write a diary about what you saw and how you escaped to safety.
- Look at some of the paintings by Lowry. Can you make one of your own using Swindon as your inspiration?
- Make a Christmas decoration using recycled materials for our classroom Christmas tree. Write a set of instructions to go with it so that others can make one too.
- Go on a hunt around your home for solids, liquids and gases. Make a note of the ones you find. Which were the most common?

Remember, if at any time you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact the office to make an appointment to see us.

With best wishes,

Mrs Watts and Mrs Akroyd