

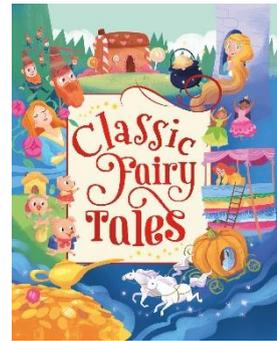
# Year 4 Class Newsletter

## Term 3

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for Term 3. Thank you very much for all of our lovely cards and gifts – they are all very much appreciated.

### English

This term, we will be learning to write non-chronological reports. We will begin by looking at examples, identifying the features and then working in pairs to write examples of our own. We will then independently write reports about our own magical creatures. Later in the term, we will focus on traditional tales and fairy tales, looking at the different types, what they have in common, writing alternative versions and writing our own original stories in this style. We will also continue covering the Year 4 spelling, punctuation and grammar objectives.



### Maths

This term, our maths lessons will focus on understanding and using negative numbers, finding factor pairs and using short multiplication. We will also be investigating symmetry in shapes and making our own symmetrical patterns. 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. In addition to this, we will be counting in multiples of 25 and 1000 and also converting different units of time e.g. hours to minutes, weeks to days.

### Science



Our science topics for this term are Sound and Food Chains. We will learn about how sounds are heard and experiment with changing the pitch and volume. We will also learn about how organisms within an environment are linked and how energy is transferred within an ecosystem.

### PE

#### **Please note: Change of PE day**

This term, our PE lessons will be back on a Monday. Each Monday, **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 – This term, we will be learning about computer programming using the programme Scratch to create quizzes.

Art – We will be learning about the architect Frank Gehry and creating our own clay buildings in this style.

Geography – We will learn the names and locations of the counties of the UK and will find out how to use Ordnance Survey maps and symbols.

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

RE – We will investigate the question ‘Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?’

PSHE – Our Jigsaw unit this term is Dreams and Goals. Our mascot is the Persistent Peacock.

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



## **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:

- Design and make your own musical instrument using your knowledge from our Science topic on how sounds are made.
- Use recyclable materials to design and make a building in the style of Frank Gehry.
- Inspired by our class reader, Kensuke's Kingdom, imagine that you are stranded on a desert island. Write a letter about your plight that could be sent as a message in a bottle.
- Research a UK county of your choice and make a poster or fact file about it to share with the class.
- Choose a famous person that you find inspiring. Find out about them and create a written or spoken presentation about the person, including what it is about them that inspired you.
- For Valentine's Day, can you make a special treat for your family? This could be a meal or a snack or even a cake!

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