

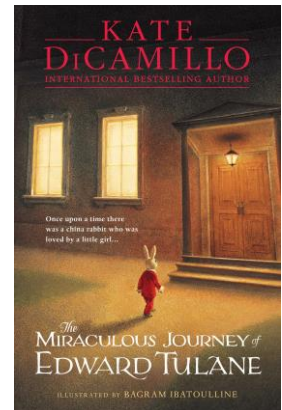
Year 4 Class Newsletter

Term 5

Welcome back and we hope that you all had a nice break over Easter. Mrs Charsley will be joining us this term, teaching on Thursdays and Fridays, and we look forward to welcoming her into Year 4!

English

This term, we will be learning about newspaper articles. We will start by writing some first drafts based on our school trip and then learning the skills we need to improve our work and make our newspaper articles as professional looking as possible, ensuring they contain all of the correct features. We should be able to clearly see how much our writing has improved over the topic. Afterwards, we will be learning about what cinquain poems are and writing our own. In Guided Reading sessions we will be practising our comprehension skills using a novel called *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo.



Maths

This term, we will be learning about presenting data in pictograms and bar charts. We will then look at properties of shapes, including different types of triangles and quadrilaterals. We will also spend time this term consolidating our understanding of estimating and approximating, exploring how this can be used to help us to check our calculations. 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 preparation for their times tables screening in June.

PE

Please note: Change of PE day

This term, our PE lessons will be on a Thursday. Some of these lessons will be taught by a coach from Swindon Town Football Club. Each Thursday, 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

History – We will be learning about castles and how they have changed over time, making links to the Battle of Hastings and life in Norman England.

DT – We will be designing castle banners and making them using sewing techniques.

Geography – We will learn about what settlements are and how people choose where to live. We will use our knowledge to pick a location on a map for our own imaginary settlement.

Music – We will be continuing recorder lessons with Swindon Music Service.

PSHE – Our Jigsaw unit for this term is Relationships.

Latin – We will continue with our 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:

- Research a castle of your choice and create a visitor information leaflet for it.
- Practise your knowledge of different types of settlements by trying to find a place name for each letter of the alphabet. Can you categorise them into cities, towns and villages? Can you work out who originally settled there by the place name?
- Use your sewing skills to create a stitched craft of your own at home. Write a set of instructions to go with it so that others can make it too.
- Find out ten facts about The Queen and present them on a poster to celebrate her jubilee.
- Create your own Battle of Hastings inspired board or card game. Make sure you remember to give it a set of rules!

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 Charsley