

Class 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents/carers,

Mrs Wood, Miss Lowe (who is covering Mrs Mills whilst she is away on maternity leave), Mrs Butcher, Miss Tucker and I would like to welcome you to Class 4. I hope you all had an enjoyable Summer break and are now ready to begin a new school year! This letter will give you some important information about Class 4 routines (for **Year 3** and **Year 4** children) and the topics we will be covering this term.

Dropping off/collecting your child

We will open the door to the classroom at 8.50am every morning. The children are to come into the cloakroom, hang their bags/coats on their pegs, put lunchboxes on the floor below their pegs and bring their book bags into class. Once they have entered the classroom they are not allowed to come back out unless they have asked permission from an adult. **Year 4** children then take their book bag and water bottle through to Miss Tucker's classroom after ticking their name on the class register.

At home time the children are allowed to leave the classroom as long as they can see the person who is collecting them from school. If you are happy for your child to walk to another class to meet you, please let me know. Bus children are allowed to walk to the bus where they are checked on board by a member of staff.

Topics this term

We will be learning about 'Romans' this term. If your child wishes to research this at home, I am happy for them to show/tell about this on a Friday.

English Year 3

As well as linking our topics to our English written work, we started recalling 'The Cautious Caterpillar' which we learnt during transition day. Next week, we will be starting with the book 'Just a Dream'. Although fictional, the book invites us to consider our future and how 'what we do' plays a big part in it. We will look at recycling and reusing materials and write our own narrative. Emphasis will be placed on capital letters, full stops and conjunctions. We will write a character description, describe some settings (focussing on expanded noun phrases) and write a formal letter.

We will be learning about 'Blackout Poetry' this term and creating our own powerful poems beginning the first week with a poem about our world.

We will then move on to learning about Roman Soldiers and how to write instructions on how to be a Roman Soldier using imperative (bossy) verbs. We will plan and write a

diary entry from a Gladiator's perspective and then write a non-chronological report based on our visit to 'The Romans Baths' (information to follow).

English Year 4

In the first half term the children will focus on the book, 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. Initially, they will discuss and perform the poem 'The Coming of the Iron Man' by Brenda Williams. They will then create their own descriptive poem about the Iron Man. Focus: adjectives (expanded noun phrases), verbs, similes, metaphors and paragraphs (verses).

After reading and discussing the book, the children will create an imaginative Prologue (opening) to explain where the Iron Man came from. They will finish by writing a descriptive narrative to retell (sequence) the story of the Iron Man in their own words.

During the second half term the children will link their English to this term's topic of 'The Romans' by focussing on the infamous leader - Julius Caesar. They will learn the tragedy of Julius Caesar by studying and performing the play by William Shakespeare.

Using a short media cartoon 'DumSpiro', the children will then keep a diary about the daily challenges that a roman soldier faces whilst trying to deliver a message for Caesar. They will then discuss and debate the cartoon 'conflict' and write a persuasive report explaining who they think was morally right and why.

Maths Years 3 and 4

Mental Maths Focus (Arithmetic).

- Times tables (multiplication and division facts, counting in multiples). TT Rockstars
- Number bonds (using mental strategies including; friendly numbers, portioning and recombine, rebalancing - equal sum). 3 Minute-Maths.
- Maths Skills Sheets

Main Maths Focus

- Place Value - (recognising the place value of 3 and 4-digit numbers, rounding, comparing and ordering, negative numbers, roman numerals)
- Addition & subtraction - Using the formal column method, estimating and finding the inverse.
- Reasoning & Problem Solving Skills based on the weekly focus.

Science Year 3

The Science topic this half term is 'Plants'. We have already begun this week, drawing and labelling the parts of a plant. We will be carrying out a scientific investigation to find out what helps/hinders growth in plants.

Next half term our Science topic is 'Light'. The children will learn where light comes from and how shadows are formed. They will also conduct investigations on shadows, light and reflections.

Science Year 4

The science topic this half term is 'States of Matter'. The children will focus on how materials can reversibly change between the solid, liquid and gas states, their similarities and differences and the processes involved in 'The water cycle'.

Next half term the science topic will be 'Sound'. The children will focus on how sounds are made and travel to the ear and will experiment with changing the pitch and amplitude of sounds using different objects and materials.

They will develop confidence in asking questions and conduct different types of enquiry to solve problems and draw their own conclusions.

Homework

Homework is given out in purple home learning books (please see inside the book for more details on home learning). Reading books and reading records need to be in school every day.

PE/Swimming

Y3 swimming is on Thursdays plus another PE session during the week, Y4 will have two PE sessions each week. Having PE kit in school all week is the easiest arrangement to ensure it's there ready for lessons and clubs.

If you have any questions or queries relating to this letter or any other issue, feel free to pop in and see any of us.

Many thanks,

Mrs Hicks and Miss Tucker