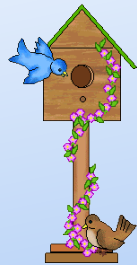


Life in All its Fullness – Come and See



Year 4 Spring 2024 Newsletter

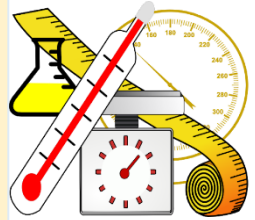


Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term! We very much hope everyone had a joyful, restful and healthy Christmas break. As we start the Spring Term, I'm very excited to say Mrs O'Neill will be joining us as a TA on Tuesday to Friday mornings, and I know the children will make her feel incredibly welcome. Mrs Godfrey will be working with us on Monday mornings and we will continue to have Mr Dean in the afternoons.

Myself and Mr Dean would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt thank you for all our wonderfully generous Christmas gifts.

Maths

In Maths, we follow the **Herts Essential Maths** scheme, with other supporting resources. Techniques to support learning include use of partner talk, games, investigations and CPA approaches (concrete, pictorial and abstract). This term, we will be starting with the topic of converting units of measure. We then move on to comparing, estimating and calculating measure; interpreting and presenting discrete and continuous data; measuring and calculating perimeter; properties of shape; symmetry; recognising and using decimal numbers; money; problem solving and exploring fractions. We will continue to practice all times tables up to 12 x 12 as part of our **Maths Fluency** sessions.



English

In English this term, we will continue to have lots of opportunities to develop our ideas, as well as practise improving our writing by up-levering vocabulary and ensuring our sentence structure has good punctuation and grammar through our new CLPE scheme. Our first text in year 4 this term is 'African Tales: A Barefoot Collection.' This collection of tales is a true celebration of the storytelling tradition and will fully immerse the children in the rich cultures of the countries represented in the collection. The book is full of vibrant and detailed illustrations inspired by the artwork of these countries. The quality of the language and style of stories will inspire the children to be effective storytellers and support them develop their vocabulary and language through the art of oral storytelling.

Moving forward, we are currently updating the texts that we teach across the schools and details of these will follow. In addition, the children will have a number of short **spelling** sessions each week based around the Herts Essential Spelling Scheme and also continue to develop their **handwriting** skills.



Science

During this term we will be exploring **sound**. We will identify how sounds are made, associate them with something vibrating and recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. The children will have many opportunities to work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate and learn how to present their findings scientifically.



Geography

For the entire Spring term, we will be immersing ourselves in the topic of 'Rivers.' We will start by defining what exactly a river is then we will look at the features of rivers and the relationship rivers have to the water cycle. We will be investigating and explaining how human activity affects rivers, together with the impact and affect flooding has on communities. During the second half of the term will be conducting an in depth study on one of the world's longest rivers.



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RE

We will be continuing to follow our excellent *The Emmanuel Project* scheme. This term the children will have opportunities to further their knowledge of Christianity and Hinduism by unpicking the following big questions:

Spring 1: How does the story of Rama and Sita inspire Hindus to follow their dharma?

Spring 2: Why are good stewardship & generous giving important for every Christian?



Art

Our ART lessons will focus on texture, starting by describing and creating texture. We will then make links to our 'Rivers' topic by using texture to create movement. Finally, we will look at a variety of fabrics and stitches.

PE

PE will continue to be on Tuesdays and Fridays each week. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kits on those days. This half term we will be focusing on our gymnastic and invasion: handball skills. During the second half of the term, we will be developing our tennis skills and working on the dances for our production. Lessons will be outside where possible and appropriate, so please do make sure that clothing is appropriate for all weathers. A spare pair of socks in their school bag might be helpful.



Computing

Over the coming term, our units are 'spreadsheets' and 'logo.' Children will use the programme '2Calculate' on Purple Mash to use spreadsheets. This unit will have strong links to Maths. 'Logo' will teach children about commands to programming.

Music

We will start off this term by using our new scheme of work in music to develop the children's skills and knowledge. We will then start practicing the songs for our production.



RHE

Lessons will follow the JIGSAW scheme of work. This term, the units are '**Dreams and Goals**' and '**Healthy Me.**'

Further information

Please do make sure your child **reads daily** as much as possible – reading really does underpin so many areas of learning. By the end of Year 4 your child should know multiplication and division facts for **times tables** up to 12 x 12. Whilst we will practise a huge amount in school, it is imperative your child practises at home regularly too to develop speed of recall and fluency. This knowledge really does feed into so many areas of Maths. **Towards the end of the year, the children will sit the new 'Multiplication tables Check'**. Your support, therefore, in encouraging practise of multiplication tables at home would be greatly appreciated. Resources such as the Times Table Rockstars website & the BBC Sport Times Table videos/songs can be fun ways of practising. Homework tasks will generally be set via **Microsoft Teams** on a weekly basis – handed out on a Friday and returned the following Wednesday. These will often be a Maths and spelling activity but may also include other subject areas. Please provide your child with a daily healthy snack for break time and please ensure your child has a **named water bottle** in school each day. As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please do ensure a coat is bought in every day.

We are really looking forward to a fabulous term, with lots of new learning and experiences for the children, celebrating **life in all its fullness**.

The Year 4 team.