

Class 4 Newsletter



Autumn 2016

Welcome back!

We hope that you all had a lovely summer break.

Staffing in Class 4 this year - Mrs Corrigan will be teaching on Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Mrs Hodgkinson will be teaching on Thursdays/Fridays. Mr Sharman will be the full time TA.

Our **English** work for the first term will be based on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. We will be looking in detail at the story and the characters, and then we will go on to writing our own similar stories. Nearer to half term, we will be looking at poetry and persuasive writing. After half term we will be looking at a non-fiction book about Ancient Egypt, from the See Inside! series. We will be looking at the features of non-fiction texts and will be writing our own instructions and newspaper reports.

Throughout both terms we will be working on spelling, grammar and handwriting. Although we will not be having spelling tests, example words that we will be focusing on each week will be available on the Class 4 section of the school website.

Our **Maths** this term we will be concentrating on place value, addition & subtraction and Multiplication & division. We will also be continually working on mental maths skills - a mental maths focus to be worked on at home will be available on the Class 4 section of the school website.

Our **Science** topic this term is Animals including humans which focuses on the human digestive system, the different types of teeth and their functions, and food chains, identifying, producers, predators, and prey. After half term we will be learning about electricity.

In our **Computing** lesson we will be using Scratch to develop skills in computer programming. Later in the term we will be learning how to open and send emails. We will also be thinking about E-safety, ensuring that we all know how to stay safe when using the Internet and other technology.

Our main topic is our **History** work on Ancient Egypt. During the first term we will be looking at what we can find out from objects left behind and what daily life was like in Ancient Egypt. We will also be looking at the role of the River Nile and how it links to food & the farming seasons. During the second term we will be going on to look at Pharaohs and the process of mummification. This is a very interesting and enjoyable unit. We will be visiting the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford in October. More details will be given nearer the time.

In our **RE** we will be focusing on Hinduism, exploring how Hindus express their beliefs through images of deities and symbols. After half term we will look at Christianity.

In **Art** we will be focusing on textiles. We will be drawing on fabric to create Egyptian wrist cuffs and we will sew hieroglyphics onto binca. We will also have a go at making clay canopic jars.

Our **Design and Technology** topic after half term is Pop-Up books; we will be looking at different mechanisms and making our own books.

In **Music** we will be working on our recorder playing! We will learn to play a variety of simple tunes and we will be beginning to learn how to read music.

Our **PE** lessons will take place on a Wednesday and Friday this term. The Wednesday session will be basketball, taught by a coach from Reading Rockets. In the other lesson, we will be developing our hockey skills. Please help your child to ensure that they have their PE kit in school every day.

Ms. Dark will teach our weekly **French** lesson, this will take place on a Tuesday.

PSHCE will be taught by Mr Sharman, this will take place on a Wednesday.

Homework will continue to take the form of a 'Takeaway menu'. It is expected that every child will hand in a piece of work by Friday each week. Children completing 'extra-hot' tasks can have 2 weeks to complete the work. Children should only hand-in the actual piece of work whilst keeping hold of their folder ready to select the next task. Homework will be regularly marked and returned. It is likely that children who have completed 'extra-hot' tasks will be expected to show their work to the rest of the class.

Reading - Children are expected to read to an adult at home daily (this includes the weekend). An adult must sign the child's reading record each time they read. Reading records will be checked weekly (usually on a Tuesday), it is the responsibility of the children to ensure that they have their reading record in school ready to be checked.

If you have any queries or concerns, please make an appointment to see us.

Mrs. Corrigan and Mrs. Hodgkinson