

Class 4 Newsletter



Spring 2017

Welcome Back!

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break.

All of our **English** this term will be based around The Secret Garden. We will mostly be using a children's abridged version of the text. We will be looking at the story in detail, understanding the characters and the plot. We will then make comparisons between the text and the film version. Finally we will complete some non-fiction/ poetry work based on The Secret Garden. We will be looking at spelling, grammar and handwriting throughout our English work. After half term, we will be reading 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King.

Our **Maths** work will initially focus on addition and subtraction. We will continue to look at each maths topic over a longer period of time in order to ensure depth of understanding. We will be looking at different ways to represent addition and subtraction calculations pictorially and then move on to formal written methods with numbers up to 4 digits including decimals in context e.g. money. We will then move on to look at multiplication and division where we will use pictorial and formal methods to solve problems. Please can all children continue to work on learning their times tables at home.

Our **Science** topics this term are states of matter, where we will learn about solids, liquids and gases. We will sort materials and investigate how and why they change states through melting and freezing. We will learn about evaporation and condensation and identify the different stages of the water cycle. After half term we will be learning all about sound and will finish the topic by applying our knowledge to help us make our own musical instruments.

In our **Computing** lesson we will be using our digital cameras and Windows Movie Maker to create our own stop-frame animations. Later in the term we will be looking at databases. We will also be using the laptops in other lessons developing skills in word processing and Internet research.

Our **Geography** topic is 'UK and Europe'. We will be thinking about physical and human geography. We will be firstly looking at where places are in the UK focusing on counties and key cities. We will then study Cardiff in more detail particularly contrasting the city with our local area. After half term, we will look at countries of Europe and capital cities. We will finish the topic with a study of a region in a European country.

In our **RE** we will be exploring the holy journeys made by believers, focusing on pilgrimages made by Christians and Hindus. After half term we will be exploring Lent and thinking about why believers might give something up.

Some of our **Art** work will link with Computing as we design and create scenery and characters for our animations.

Our **Design and Technology** topic after half term will be based around food. We will be looking at the seasonality of different foods as well as whether food is grown, caught, reared or processed. We will be designing and cooking a seasonal dish.

In **Music** we will be developing our recorder skills. Later in the term we will develop our skills in reading music.

This term, Class 4 will be swimming on a Thursday morning (you should have received a separate letter about this before Christmas). Our other **PE** lesson will be Basketball with a coach from Reading Rockets. Please make sure that children have indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week in case lessons are rearranged.

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 one or both of us.

Mrs. Corrigan and Mrs. Hodgkinson