

Year 4's Spring 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year. We would like to thank you for the lovely gifts which we received for Christmas.

We have exciting things planned for the Spring Term- lots of new learning and the beginning of our Young Leader's Award!

English

In English we will be continuing the development of our sentence structure and deepening our knowledge of speech as a means to show the feelings and actions of a character. We will be continuing to focus on: vocabulary, using a Thesaurus to expand our use of effective description; developed expanded noun phrases; fronted adverbials with commas; continuing improvement of our punctuation skills; and exploring figurative language including similes and metaphors. Handwriting and spelling will be taught across our week and spellings will be supported on the Spelling Shed website which children can continue to access at home. The children will apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) in our reading and writing across the curriculum areas. We will be linking English to our Science, Humanities and RE work as well as exploring poetry and Aesop's fables.

Maths

In Maths this half term we will be: continuing to deepen our understanding of our times tables and the related division facts; calculating area; fractions and decimals. Problem solving and reasoning will be an integral part of our maths lessons as we solve number and practical problems that involve all of the above and with increasingly large positive numbers.

Humanities

Our history topic this term is the Anglo Saxons. The children will continue to explore the concepts of invasion and settlement and the impact this had/has on people. The children will generate questions about what they want to know about the Anglo Saxons and our learning will explore these. We will begin by identifying who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from, including understanding their place in history. Children will identify the areas of Anglo-Saxon settlements and explore how they lived, including their religions and beliefs. Children will use a range of sources to solve the mystery of Sutton Hoo.

Science

This half term we will learn about 'Living things and their habitats' by exploring the local environment for environmental changes and examining the impact on wildlife as well as exploring endangered species. Children will: learn that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

P.E

On a Thursday afternoon, year four will participate in P.E. lessons run by a Dance Specialist. This half term, children will be focusing on their Cheerleading skills.

Year four will continue to attend swimming lessons at Saddleworth Pool and Leisure on Friday mornings at 10am. This will be our last half term of swimming. Please ensure your child has their swimming kit each Friday morning and please can I remind parents that girls who wear earrings should not wear them to school on a Friday due to their swimming lessons. If earrings are worn, it is the child's responsibility to remove them and keep them in a safe place until the lesson is completed. Please can you check your child has the correct PE kit in school. Details of our uniform list are available on our website.

Homework/ Spelling and Times Tables

Spellings will be sent home to consolidate what the children are learning in class; these will also be on the Spelling Shed website. Please log in to Times Tables Rockstars and ensure that times tables are practiced. We will be having a short spelling and a times tables test every Friday.

Homework will continue to be a selection of termly ideas sent home outlining how the children might develop the Effective Characteristics of Learning, which will be optional for the children to take part in.

If parents wish to comment upon the activities children have taken part in at home to develop the Effective Characteristics of Learning (Team Worker, Reflective Learner, Effective Participator, Self Manager, Resourceful thinker, Independent Enquirer) we would love to be able to share this with the children in class.

Whilst we will send home suggested tasks, parents are free to comment on any other activities children have completed at home that might reflect one of these areas e.g. playing a board game with the family demonstrates traits of an effective participator, playing for a sports team demonstrates traits of a team worker and a self-manager.

Reading Books

The children will read at least once a week with either myself, Mrs Killan or Mr Bowles. It is important that you read with your children at night, even for 10 minutes, as this helps to impact on their writing and makes them more confident and fluent readers. It is really important that parents comment in the reading record books to let us know how children are progressing at home so that we can ensure we continue to send home challenging texts.

We will have library time where the children will be able to borrow a book from the library to take home, this helps to engage the children in different types of books and develop their reading.



Water Bottles

Everyone in class should have a water bottle for them to be able to keep on their table. If your child does not have one, please ensure they bring one in as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to come in and see us if you have any questions or concerns. If I am unable to chat to you at the time, we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Here's to a busy and engaging Spring Term in Year 4. ☺

Kind regards,

Mrs Calverley-Smith, Mrs Killan and Mr Bowles