



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn term 2019

Welcome to Year 4 with Mrs. Johnson

First of all, a very warm welcome to Year 4! I hope you had a fantastic break and are ready for the new term. This newsletter is to let you know about some of the work we will be doing this term and how you can support your child in their learning.

We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Robinson working with year 4 this year. She will work alongside us every day supporting children who require any additional help.

In **English** we will explore a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. This year, we are continuing to develop the brilliant Talk 4 Writing approach, which will help boost children's writing and reading. We will also spend time practising handwriting skills – supported by the Kinetic Letters program – in order to help us continue joining letters correctly. Alongside this, we will be working hard to improve our year 3/4 spellings. A list of ten different spellings will be sent home every Friday for children to learn for the following week. These spellings will be stuck into children's reading records and will be marked correct or incorrect weekly. Support at home to learn spellings daily will be the most effective method for learning these. Try varying strategies to find a way that works best. For example, try rainbow spellings (writing each letter in a different colour), look cover write and check or march out the letters as you spell them out loud.

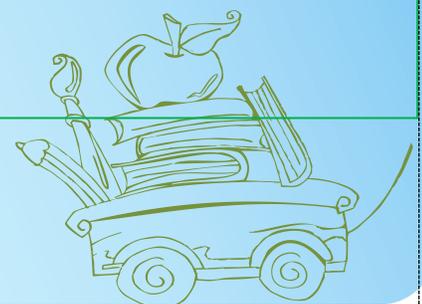
Year 4 are expected to read daily. They have a degree of freedom in their choice of books. By Year 4, it is not uncommon for children to not want to read aloud to parents at home! If this is the case, encourage your child to discuss what they have read, ask them the meanings of new vocabulary words and ask them questions about specific events in the book. Although it is fine for children to make their own comments in reading records this year, please continue to sign and use our new reading codes this to confirm that your child has been reading.

Maths will include developing mental strategies as well as skills in the following areas:

- Place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Measurement (length and perimeter)
- Multiplication and division

We will also spend time each week practising multiplication facts in preparation for the 'Multiplication & Division Clubs' system we have in school. Children will continue where they left off in Year 3 and will have their tables test on a Monday morning. Please ensure your child is practising daily, little and often works best! The expectations of the National Curriculum state that children must be able to recall multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4 and this year children will be tested accordingly in the summer term.

This term our main history **topic** is '**Anglo-Saxon Settlement in Britain.**' Our research will include where the Anglo-Saxons came from, who they were, their kingdoms, Sutton Hoo and Edward the Confessor. Our main geography topic is a '**Local Area Study.**' As part of this topic we will be developing our geographical fieldwork skills by observing, measuring and recording the human and physical features of our local area.



In **Art** we will be developing our cross-hatching skills to show texture and tone, using clay to create our own Anglo-Saxon artefacts and using paint to visualize the monster of Grendel in Beowulf.

After half term we will start our **D&T** project which will involve the children using their textiles skills to create Anglo-Saxon purses.

Music will be taught this year by a specialist music teacher from Dudley Performing Arts. The children will have the opportunity to learn the clarinet. This lesson will take place on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure that the return slip is returned to the office so that children can take their clarinets home for regular practice at home.

In **Science**, we will be learning about teeth and the digestive system.

During **French** lessons, children will continue to develop basic vocabulary and phrases through conversation, drama and role-play, focusing this term on numbers up to 40 and animals.

PE will take place on Wednesday afternoons this term. Please ensure that PE kits are in school, with pumps and (if possible) trainers, as children will be taking part in netball practice outdoors. Children may also bring tracksuit bottoms if they wish. Earrings do need to be removed for PE lessons.

Swimming will take place on Friday afternoons. Please ensure that all clothes/towels are named, that jewellery is not worn, and that hair is tied back.

In **RE** we will be exploring stories from the Old Testament and researching people who are motivated and inspired by their faith.

Understanding our feelings, and how to deal with them is a very important part of growing up. We will share ideas about this through discussion and during Circle Time in **PSHE**.

During **Computing** this term, children will continue their work on programming. They will learn more about algorithms, conditional logic and computational thinking, whilst also learning how to stay safe online.

Home Learning will continue the same as last year. The aim with our home learning policy is for children to focus on the core skills which will have the most impact on their wider learning. Children are expected to practise their multiplication tables as well as use 'DoodleMaths' each day and read at least three times a week. As mentioned before, children will also be expected to learn a list of ten spellings each week. The children will benefit most when home and school work together, so please support your children in making the most of their learning.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or concerns. I am available most days after school or can be contacted via email at rjohnson@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

I will do my best to help, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Johnson

