



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn term 2020

Welcome to Year 4 with Miss Howarth

I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome back to a new school year! In these unprecedented times, it's been amazing to see how the children have come back and adapted to school life so quickly and with such enthusiasm!

This newsletter is a chance to discover what we will be learning about this term and how you can support your child at home.

In **English** we will explore a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. This year, we will be continuing to use the brilliant Talk 4 Writing approach, which will help boost children's writing and reading. We will also spend time practicing children's handwriting through the use of the Kinetic Letters programme. In Year 4, we will be focusing specifically on joining up our handwriting. Alongside this, we will be working hard to improve our Year 3/4 spellings. A list of 10 spellings will be sent home every Monday for children to learn. They will be stuck in the back of children's reading diaries ready to be learnt both in school and at home. They will then have a spelling test on the following Monday, with a new set of spellings sent out that afternoon.

Year 4 are expected to read daily. They have a degree of freedom in their choice of books. By Year 4, some children are more interested in reading to themselves rather than to an adult. If this is the case, you can support your child's reading by discussing the book and what they have read with them. You could also discuss the meaning of different vocabulary with them and ask questions about information in the text. We would appreciate your feedback and comments on your child's reading which can be recorded in their reading records. Reading records will need to be brought into school on a Monday and will be handed back for children to take home again on a Wednesday. Children will be able to choose two books from school. One of these books will remain in school and the other will be kept at home until finished.

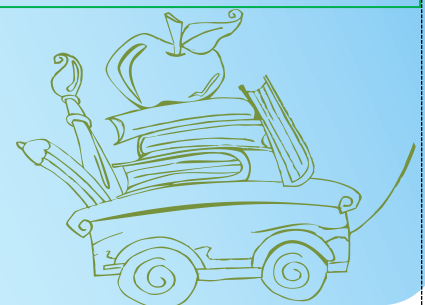
Maths will include developing mental strategies as well as skills in the following areas:


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

We will also be focusing on our times tables in order to support children in their multiplication and division club challenges. Times tables are a key skill that form a secure base for everything that children learn in maths. Therefore, it is important that they practice their times tables both at home and in school. Our club challenges will take place every week on a Tuesday morning. The National Curriculum states that by the end of Year 4, children should be able to recall both multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12. Little and often is an effective method of practicing times tables. Daily practice on the DoodleMaths website and Times Tables Rock Stars is also a very effective learning tool in supporting times tables knowledge.

Our main **History** topic this term is the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. We will be looking at how and why they invaded Britain, whilst also looking at what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

In **Geography**, we will be studying our local area. We will be focusing upon life around the Black Country. We will be studying both the human and physical geography of Wollaston and how it has changed over time.





In **Art** we will be developing our painting skills by focusing on Sunflowers by Van Gogh. After half-term, we will be focusing on monoprinting and linking this to our Anglo-Saxon topic in history,

This term in **DT**, we will be creating our own jack-in-the-box. We will be looking at pneumatics and different products on the market. We will end the topic by evaluating our final products.

In **Music**, we will be looking at the song Mamma Mia by ABBA and developing our knowledge of tempo and rhythm.

In **Science**, we will be learning about teeth and the digestive system. We will also be looking at animals and the habitats that they live in. We will be studying different animal classifications and looking at how environmental changes are affecting their habitats.

During **French** lessons, children will continue to develop basic vocabulary and phrases through conversation, drama and role-play, focusing this term on nationalities and telling the time.

PE will take place on both Tuesday and Friday afternoons this term. Please ensure that children are sent into school in their PE kits as we are currently unable to get changed at school. Children may also wear tracksuit bottoms if they wish. Earrings do need to be removed for PE lessons.

In **RE** we will be exploring the Buddhist faith and looking at the teachings of Buddha. We will be using our investigation skills to find out as much about these teachings as we can.

We will be looking at the importance of using the internet safely in **PSHE**. We will also be looking at our feelings and behaviours and how they can affect how others feel.

During **Computing** this term, children will continue their work on programming. We will be using both the RoboMind and Scratch programmes to develop our skills.

Home Learning will continue the same as last year. To help support with your child's English skills. Please practice their spellings with them as often as possible and also encourage them to read every day.

To assist with your child's learning in maths, please practice the multiplication and division club that they are working on. It is also encouraged to spend 10 minutes every day on DoodleMaths to support this knowledge.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or concerns. I can be contacted via email at ehowarth@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Miss Howarth

