



Class 4 Spring 2 Newsletter

February 2020



Welcome back to Class 4!

I hope you have all had a super half-term holiday. This half term there will be a strong History focus, as our class topic is Ancient Greece. As part of our topic work, we are aiming to hold an Ancient Greek day. In class, I will continue to place a strong emphasis on having a Growth Mindset approach as part of our whole school values. Please encourage your child to practise their spellings and times tables regularly. 10-15 minutes a day can make such a difference. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and speak to either myself or Mrs Carmichael. I look forward to meeting you all at parents' evening in a few weeks' time.

Mr Garlick 😊

Topic - Ancient Greece

As part of our topic, we will be studying Ancient Greece. This will involve finding out about the Gods and Goddesses, Myths & Legends, everyday life in Athens, the Battle of Marathon, Ancient Greek democracy, the history of the Olympic Games, Greek pottery, the Trojan war and how the Ancient Greeks left a legacy that is still alive today.

As historians we will:

- Use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate, including: dates, time periods, era, change and chronology.
- Use evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past.
- Suggest suitable sources of evidence for historical enquiries.
- Use more than one source of evidence for historical enquiry in order to gain a more accurate understanding of history.
- Describe different accounts of a historical event, explaining some of the reasons why the accounts may differ.
- Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history.
- Place events, artefacts and historical figures on a time line using dates.
- Use dates and times to describe events.

Literacy

This half term will be using the story of The Trojan War and the class topic of Ancient Greece as a stimulus for our writing. The story links with our topic work and it will support our learning in literacy by providing opportunities to develop skills in the three key areas of writing:

- **Transcription**- to present neatly, spell correctly and punctuate accurately
- **Composition** -to write with purpose, use imaginative description, organise writing and use sentences appropriately
- **Analysis and presentation** - To review and edit writing and to present writing for a wider audience

To develop and improve these elements of writing we will be:

- Writing a narrative
- Writing instructions
- Writing a variety of poems

Discrete handwriting practise takes place at least three times per week and children are working towards their Pen licence, which is issued when written work is at the appropriate standard including spelling and punctuation. Some children have already received their licence and I hope to be awarding many more this half term as the quality of handwriting is very impressive!

Numeracy - Morning learning

Numeracy begins with morning learning at 8:45am. Please can all children be at school for this time as results have shown that this extra reinforcement of mathematical concepts has a significant and positive impact on children's attainment. Children also receive time to practise their times tables during morning learning.

Numeracy - Objectives

Week 1 - 5: Fractions

Year 4	Year 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equivalent fractions• Fractions greater than 1• Counting in fractions• Add 2 or more fractions• Subtracting fractions• Calculate fractions of a quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equivalent fractions• Improper and Mixed Numbers• Comparing and Ordering fractions• Adding fractions• Subtracting fractions• Multiplying fractions by a whole number

Week 6: Decimals

Y4: Decimals up to 2 decimal places

Y5: Decimals as fractions, Converting between fractions and decimals.

Maths Homework

During most weeks, at least one MyMaths activity will be set to reinforce the learning from the previous week. In addition to MyMaths, children should be regularly practising their times tables on TT Rockstars. 10-15 minutes a day can make a huge difference! If you have any problems logging on to either website, please come and see me. If there is a week where there are no appropriate MyMaths activities, then please encourage your child to practise their times tables.

Reading

I will be continuing to use a whole class approach to guided reading, where all children will access the same text and will participate in reading aloud to the class and discussions on the text. This method ensures that children are exposed to far more hours of reading time and are able to support each other in their understanding of the text and how to answer the comprehension questions. This half term we will be finishing Kensuke's Kingdom (by Michael Morpurgo), before moving onto Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans. Where children need additional support in reading, they will have the opportunity to access appropriate texts on a 1:1 basis. Children will be issued with a reading book suited to their ability or they will be given the option to choose a book from the school library. Please encourage your children to read regularly at home and to an adult as well as having the opportunity to discuss and raise questions about what they have read.

Spellings

I will continue to use No-nonsense Spelling and this will require discrete lessons being taught for year 4 and 5 pupils based on a spelling rule or pattern. Spelling tests will usually take place on Wednesdays, with children receiving their new spellings on the same day. Children can either practise their spellings on Spelling Shed or in their spelling books. I particularly encourage parents to ask children to spell the words as part of a dictated sentence and that spellings are given in a random order. We will monitor the new spelling scheme closely and if necessary, additional strategies will be used to further support pupils' spellings.

Science

In Science, we will be studying Teeth and Healthy Bodies. We will be conducting a number of practical investigations over the course of the half term.

As scientists we will:

- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.
- Identify that humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.
- Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.
- Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.

Art

This half term we will focus on watercolours, using pencils and watercolour paints. We will also make links to the topic about Ancient Greece, using clay. As artists we will:

- Replicate some of the techniques used by notable artists, artisans and designers
- Develop ideas from starting points throughout the curriculum.
- Collect information, sketches and resources.
- Adapt and refine ideas as they progress.
- Explore ideas in a variety of ways.
- Comment on artworks using visual language.

Music

Music will continue to take place on Friday afternoons with Mr Childs.

Please ensure that your child brings their Ukulele to school each Friday.

Computing

This half term, we will be studying websites and creating our own HTML pages in Word or PowerPoint.

As computer programmers we will:

- Understand how online services work.
- Use some of the advanced features of applications and devices in order to communicate ideas, work or messages professionally.
- Use many of the advanced features in order to create high quality, professional or efficient communications.

PE

This half term, the focus for PE will be Athletics. We will be learning the skills for the events that take place on Sports Day (at the end of March). I will be teaching PE on Friday afternoons and on Thursday afternoons, PE will be taught by Mr Stratford. Please ensure that children have the correct PE kit, which includes suitably warm clothing and footwear for outdoors, as both sessions could be either indoors or outdoors.

As athletes we will:

- Sprint over a short distance up to 60 metres.
- Run over a longer distance, conserving energy in order to sustain performance.
- Use a range of throwing techniques (such as under arm, over arm).
- Throw with accuracy to hit a target or cover a distance.
- Jump in a number of ways, using a run up where appropriate.
- Compete with others and aim to improve personal best performances