



# Spring 1 2018 News Letter



## Class 4

**Welcome back and happy New Year to you all.**

We had another very busy half term before the Christmas break and I am sure that the children were all very ready for a two week holiday (I certainly was!) However, now we are all refreshed we have a fun 6 weeks ahead with our new topic of Harry Potter. As always, our topic will provide the stimulus for acquiring knowledge and skills across all areas of the curriculum and I try to make this as exciting and interesting as possible to fully engage the class. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Bower either in person or via email.

[h.rolling@oxspringprimary.co.uk](mailto:h.rolling@oxspringprimary.co.uk) With New Year best wishes

Mrs Rolling and Mrs Bower

### Topic- Harry Potter

Our topic will provide the 'vehicle for learning' for all areas of the curriculum this half term. The novel itself will be read as part of our whole-class guided reading and will challenge children to appreciate the text using a range of reading skills which we refer to as VIPERS- Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising. Alongside the book, we will also study the film and use the same VIPERS skills to appreciate the script, settings and action choices whilst comparing parts of the film and novel to identify differences between the two. We will take the opportunity to extend our geography skills as we look at the United Kingdom and use the range of landscapes in the book to support our understanding of different locations and geographical differences.

#### As geographers we will:

- Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, cities, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

### Literacy

We will be using our topic of the Harry Potter to support our learning in literacy and this will provide 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

- Write a non-chronological report
- Write an adventure story
- A book review

This half term we will continue to focus on the teaching of handwriting in discrete sessions and look to issue more pen licences for children who are writing at the acceptable standard.

### Numeracy - Morning learning

Numeracy begins with morning learning at 8:45am. Please ensure 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. It has been very evident in assessments that the children who regularly miss all or the majority of morning learning have not made the same progress of the children who do. Thank you in anticipation of your support to ensure all children access this valuable learning time.

### Numeracy - Objectives

#### Weeks 1-3

- Count up and down in hundredths; recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by one hundred and dividing tenths by ten.

#### Weeks 4-6

- Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions.

The work on fractions is heavily dependent on children's recall of their multiplication and inverse division facts. Can all parents please encourage their children to access the TT Rockstars on-line resource to support their child's development in this vital area of maths. I will reissue all children with log-on details for the site.

### Home learning

Can I please remind all parents that on most weeks MyMaths homework will be set to reinforce the learning from the previous week. Whilst there may be weeks when there are no appropriate activities, the majority of the weeks children will have at least one activity set that should be completed. Many children have several homework tasks that have not been completed and this will impact on their learning. If you have any problems logging on or do not have access to the website please come and see me.

### Reading

This half term, we will be using whole class guided reading as we use our text of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The children will be challenged on their understanding of the text on various levels using the previously mentioned 'VIPERS' range of questioning. Whilst accurate decoding of words is vitally important, making meaning from what children read is the ultimate aim of reading from any text. Reading with children at home is still incredibly important in years 4 and 5 and I have attached example questions that you can ask your child about a piece of text they have read to you. If you have any questions regarding these, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Spellings

Children will continue to be tested in small groups for their spellings and we encourage children to practise spellings regularly throughout the week and apply them in a sentence. Children will be tested on a given day of the week and new spellings will be issued so please ensure that their spelling book is in their school bag on that day along with their practise sheet. Several children have shown that whilst practising their spellings, they do not understand the vocabulary and therefore will not be able to apply what they have spent all week learning. Can I please ask that you discuss the vocabulary with your child and encourage them to apply the words verbally and in their written sentences.

## Science

In science our topic is materials

As scientists we will:

States of Matter

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), building on their teaching in mathematics.
- Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature

## Art

This half term we will focus on using pen and ink to create art work inspired by Harry Potter and significant children's illustrators such as Chris Mould and Pete Williamson.

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

Children will continue with music lessons on Fridays with Mr Waller using the ukulele. Children are encouraged to take their instrument home to practise and return on Fridays.

## Computing

Mr West will be delivering the computing curriculum on Fridays in class 4 and this half term the focus will be on web development and e-safety.

We will:

- Give examples of the risks posed by online communications.
- Understand the term 'copyright'.
- Understand that comments made online that are hurtful or offensive are the same as bullying.
- Understand how online services work.

## PE

Class 4 will have PE on Mondays and on Thursdays, - the Thursday session will be with Mr Stratford. Where possible the PE sessions will be outdoors so please can children have the correct and appropriate PE kit on these days. The daily mile will take place each day (weather permitting) so children need appropriate footwear every day.

In gymnastics we will:

- Plan, perform and repeat sequences.
- Move in a clear, fluent and expressive manner.
- Refine movements into sequences.
- Show changes of direction, speed and level during a performance.
- Travel in a variety of ways, including flight, by transferring weight to generate power in movements.
- Show a kinesthetic sense in order to improve the placement and alignment of body parts (e.g. in balances experiment to find out how to get the centre of gravity successfully over base and organise body parts to create an interesting