

## Y4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to welcome all the children and yourselves to Year 4. The children have already made a great start this past two weeks and the year 4 team are very impressed with their efforts. We have an exciting year planned with some great learning ahead of us.

Staff working in year 4 this year are Sharon Hall, Abi Readman and Sue Strange. In addition to the three of us, Lydia Virgin will be teaching **art** on a Wednesday, Avtar Manku will be teaching **Djembe** on a Wednesday and Kate Earl will be teaching **French** on a Friday. We are also joined by a student teacher, Isher Sidhu for this term and welcome her to the team.

Our topic this term is '**Explore Romans**' and the children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of **British history** with a focus on The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain at the time and the legacy it left us. We will start by learning about how Rome was founded and then will go on to look at Roman families, Roman houses and towns, Roman food and drink, Roman entertainment and Roman jobs (including the Roman army).

As the children begin to understand The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, we will use 'Roman Diary, The Journal of Iliona a young slave' by Richard Platt to create a writing opportunity as they imagine themselves to be a Roman slave for a week. They will be encouraged to think about time adverbials, comparative conjunctions and rhetorical questions. They will write effective sentences for a historical diary which will draw the reader in to their inner thoughts and feelings.

**Reading in year 4:** Children in year 4 will be listened to by an adult in school on a regular basis and will have daily opportunities to read for pleasure within class. Please encourage your child to continue to read a wide range of texts regularly at home too and talk to them about it. I have attached a useful guide of recommended reads for year 4 with this letter.

All children in year 4 will be able to visit the school library once a week to choose a library book to take home. Our library day is **Thursday**. Please ensure your child brings their library book back to school on that day if they wish to borrow a different book. Of course, if they are still reading it then they may keep it at home until finished.

**English:** As we have settled into the year 4 classroom, our initial focus has been wellbeing. We have used 'Felix After the Rain' by Dunja Jogan and some poems by Matt Goodfellow to help us talk about the characters' emotions and our own to inspire our writing. We are going to continue with some work around poetry as we think about poems that create images in the mind. We will begin with 'The Reader of This Poem' by Roger Mc Gough and 'Rainbows' by Moira Andrews as we think about how similes and metaphors are used to create powerful images in the reader's mind. This will continue to be our focus over the next few weeks as we move towards writing our own descriptive poem inspired by 'Window' a wordless picture book, by Jeannie Baker, that provides children with an understanding of how growth affects the world we live in.

We will then be moving on to explore an exciting narrative 'The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore' by W.E. Joyce which the children will use as a guide for creating their own mini book 'The Fantastic Flying Book of (name).' The children will be exploring the language and structure of the story and comparing it to other similar stories they may have come across in their reading. They will be encouraged to think about noun phrases and superlatives in terms of character and setting contexts. They will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the term 'show not tell' the reader.

**Spelling:** Our spelling work will include consolidating and building on the spelling rules we have already learnt in previous years and moving on to looking at the year 4 spelling rules. To reinforce this learning the children will have a weekly spelling test based upon the year 4 spelling rules which they will practise throughout the week. In addition to practising in school it would be helpful if the children can practise these at home too. And so, with that in mind, children will be sent home with a spelling list to practise (every Monday) in preparation for a **spelling test which will take place on the Friday of the same week**. In year 4 the children have a spelling test book which they will write their weekly spellings into, and they will also use this book for the test. It is therefore important that this book is in school on the days

given. I am also sending home a list of common exception words associated with year 3/4 (see attached sheet). These are words that the children are expected to know so, whilst we will look at them in school on a regular basis, it would be great if you could practise these with your child at home too.

**Maths:** In Maths we will continue to work daily on our Passport targets to secure basic facts and skills. To achieve each target, the children have to say or write their answers in 30 seconds so it's helpful to practise each target regularly at home. All Maths Passport target information can be found on the school website but please ask if your child needs reminding of where they are up to. We will begin the term working on place value. The children will have the opportunity to explore and use a variety of representations (including measures) to become fluent in the order and place value of numbers beyond 1,000, including counting in 10s and 100s We will then move on to addition and subtraction with numbers up to 4-digits using the formal methods of column addition and subtraction where possible. We will then look at area, thinking about counting squares, making shapes and comparing area before moving on to focusing on multiplication and division. During this time, the children will continue to practise recalling and using multiplication tables and related division facts to aid fluency, practise mental methods and become fluent in the formal written method of short multiplication and short division.

Problem solving and reasoning will continue to be an important part of all our maths when the children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills independently and to persevere when they are stuck.

We need to be secure in all our times tables by the end of year 4. This term will be spent revisiting those learnt in year 2 and 3 initially before moving on to the remaining ones. These will become part of our daily routine to practise so that the children are able to instantly recall facts.

**Science:** During the first half of the term, the children will be learning about sound. They will be investigating pitch and volume through exploring a wide range of musical instruments. And they will be learning about the hearing of humans and other animals. The children will be finding out all about electricity in the second half of the term. They will be identifying the dangers associated with electricity in the home, finding out which materials are good conductors and those which aren't through investigation and then using this information to construct simple circuits.

The children will be developing their geographical skills and fieldwork in **geography**. They will take part in a series of activities to improve their knowledge and understanding of map symbols, keys, compass directions, and grid references through a series of challenges.

In **Computing**, we will be using the chrome books to undertake research for our topic-based writing.

In **R.E** we will be asking the question 'How are important events remembered?' Our Christian value is 'RESPECT' and we'll be learning what this is and what it looks like throughout the year.

In **PSHCE** our topics include 'new beginnings'. We will also be thinking about our school principles; 'Be kind, Be safe, Be your best'.

In **Art/DT** the children will be developing their own Roman mosaics, looking at pattern and texture amongst other things.

The focus for **P.E.** is invasion games including football, basketball & hockey and dance. **P.E. will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school. PE kit consists of a plain or Shire Oak white or purple t-shirt and black shorts. (We will aim to have PE outdoors as often as possible this term so joggers and a sweatshirt/hoodie would be useful. No football strips or similar please. As always, please make sure that everything is labelled and placed in a named bag. We prefer kit to stay at school for the full half term. It can be washed in the half term holiday!

**Trips and visitors** – We are hoping to arrange a trip to support our topic focus, TBC

**Water Bottles** - Please remember to send your child in with a filled water bottle **every morning**. These are refilled during the day as and when needed.

**Milk** - If you want your child to have milk, please make sure you log onto "Cool Milk Limited", if you didn't register last year, the office can give you more details.

**How you can help** - Regular reading with your child is still an essential skill in Year 4. Listening to your child read at least three times a week for 10 minutes will be of real benefit to your child's learning.

You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Please remember that the most important homework you can do is reading together regularly, handwriting practice, practising phonics and spellings and helping children to learn facts for their Maths Passport targets.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you, we look forward to working with you and your child this year, do ask if you have any queries throughout the term.

The Year 4 team.

### **\*DATES FOR THE DIARY\***

**LINEHAM FARM RESIDENTIAL – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023**