23rd April 2021

**Curriculum Newsletter Term 5**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after what we hope was a relaxing Easter break for you and your family. We have an exciting and busy term ahead!

Below is the outline of the curriculum areas we will be covering this term.

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| **Subject** | **Areas to be covered** |
| **Maths** | We will continue to use Maths No Problem which is in line with the Singapore Maths approach. This encourages children to use manipulatives to support learning and approach mathematical problems in different ways. Children will be developing their mathematical thinking in a range of contexts with particular focus on:   * **Money** * **Decimals**, focusing on counting, ordering and rounding tenths and hundredths * **Mass, volume and capacity,** |
| **English** | Our English learning begins with **non-fiction writing** this term. Following on from our Science last term, we will be looking at the issue of deforestation, finding out how to create **a balanced argument**.  Spellings will be taught explicitly once per week and applied across the curriculum.  Our fiction work will be base around the **play script** of **Fantastic Mr Fox** by **Roald Dahl**. The focus will be on writing simple scripts and on **developing characters** by what we make them say do and how we make other characters relate to them. We will develop and apply our understanding of a variety of grammatical skills including inverted commas and its associated punctuation rules, verb tense and commas. |
| **Science** | Our Science topic for this term is **‘Electricity’**. We will be identifying common appliances that run on electricity. We will also construct simple electrical circuits, using bulbs, batteries, wires, switches and buzzers. In order to complete our learning, we will be carrying out a range of **investigations,** either as a whole class or in groups, to build on our ‘**problem solving**’ skills, as well as to develop our **scientific vocabulary** further.  Our ‘Big Question’ to research for science homework is: ‘*What would happen if we did not have electricity?’* |
| **RE** | Our RE learning this term will be about **HINDUISM**, in particular**, What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?**  Throughout the unit we will be exploring the main beliefs of Hindus, which places are special to Hindus, festivals that are important to Hindus and finding out about the meanings of some Hindu symbols. |

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| **Computing** | This term in computing we will be learning about **computational thinking**. We will look at the four key strands of computational thinking which **are decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction** and **building algorithms**. To finish the unit we will look at how using computational thinking can help us to write simple computer programs which can solve problems. |
| **History** | This term our focus will be on the **Tudors** as part of our **local history** topic. We will find out about the five Tudor sovereigns (six with Lady Jane Grey) and find out what we learn about the Tudors from historical landmarks in Kent. If you have the opportunity to, a visit to **Hever Castle, Penshurst Place** or the village of **Chiddingstone** would really help to bring this topic to life. |
| **Art** | Our art will focus on **Western Africa** this term by looking at **Malian antelope headdresses** and the **Benin plaques** from Nigeria. Over the term, we will create a  cardboard relief of an insect. Through this we will explore the concept of **sculptures** in relief (as seen in the Benin plaques) and use simplified shapes to represent an animal (as shown in the Malian headdresses). **We will be needing more cereal boxes again please!** |
| **French** | We will be continuing to develop our **French vocabulary,** looking at **I can…** verbs. |
| **PE** | PE will take place on Wednesdays this term. The children will be learning the rules and skills of rounders with Alex from Tonbridge Schools’ Sports partnership. |
| **Music** | Our music this term will focus on **timbre**. We will explore different sounds and look at **body percussion**, culminating in composing and performing a body percussion piece. |
| **PSHE and P4C** | We use a comprehensive **PSHE programme** to support us in developing fully rounded children who are healthy, sociable and emotionally literate. It covers key concepts and skills to support pupils’ spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and teach British Values. The programme builds on the core theme areas identified by the PSHE Association:   * Health and Wellbeing * Relationships * Living in the Wider World |

**Parent Information**

**Year 4 Staff**



**Teachers**

Miss Nixon - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Mrs Outram - Friday

**Teaching Assistants**

Mrs Coomber – Mornings Monday to Friday and Wednesday afternoons

Mrs Rugg – Tuesday afternoons for PPA cover

**Home Learning**



Home Learning will begin again, begin set every Friday on Spelling and Maths Shed. In addition to this, we continue to encourage to read daily and regularly practise their times tables for their Times Too tests on Thursdays. On occasion, we may set additional paper based activities as well, such as, Barvember challenges.

**PE**



Children will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit on **Wednesdays**. They do not need to bring a change of clothes and will stay in their PE kits all day. As PE may take place outside or in the hall with the doors open, please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing, including:

* their house-coloured PE t-shirt
* their school jumper and a warmer jumper to go over the top
* black/navy shorts or a skirt (in warmer weather)/jogging bottoms (in colder weather)
* trainers
* grey/white socks.

**What do children need to bring to school?**



As part of our school risk assessments, we are limiting the number of items children can bring to school. Please can children bring the following items each day:

* A book bag or a **small** rucksack. No large bags please.
* A clearly labelled water bottle.
* A packed lunch (if not having school lunch).
* Their reading book.
* A coat/hats and gloves/additional layers (weather dependent).

**Children are only allowed to bring into school the items listed above**, ie. no pencil cases, toys etc.

**Communication**



In order to ensure that children are able to arrive and exit school safely, can any messages be emailed or phoned through to the school office please? Also, don’t hesitate to email us directly should you have any queries or concerns. If you would prefer to speak with us in person, please contact us to arrange an appointment.

Yours Sincerely,

The Year 4 Team