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                        November 2022

**CLASS 4 AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term. The first few weeks in class 4 have flown by really quickly and I feel that the children have achieved a lot in such a short time. I have been really impressed with their enthusiasm towards their habitat projects and have enjoyed looking at their work. In this letter, you can find an overview of what we will be covering in each curriculum area.

**This term our topic continues into the exploration of the Ancient Maya.**

**English**

We will be focusing our work around one text this term. Our core text will be ‘Demon Dentist’ by David Walliams. Much of our writing and reading work will be based around this text. Some of the key areas we will be focusing on will include the following: using paragraphs, opening and closing writing, using expanded noun phrases and using similes and alliteration. Key reading focuses include defining key vocabulary in texts, making predictions and using inference.

Our spelling test continues to be on a Monday. I have sent home the spelling overview for the half term and uploaded an electronic version to the year 4 yammer page.

**Reading Books and Diaries**

Please can children continue to read at home at least three times a week for twenty minutes which should then be recorded in their reading diary.  Reading regularly also has a huge benefit in helping children with their writing too.

**Maths**

In maths, our key focus this half term will be on using formal methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also spend a fortnight focusing on length and perimeter and using different units to measure length. Please could all children use TTRS weekly to support their times tables, there is a weekly competition between the classes.

Parents often ask what they can do at home to support children. In year 4, times table recall would be a key place to start as well as ensuring that your child can tell the time confidently on a digital and analogue clock. I have written which times tables your child would benefit from practicing based upon a baseline assessment at the start of the year in their reading diary. I will share the guidance for parents for the times table assessment at the end of the year shortly.

**History**

We will be continuing to explore the Ancient Maya and finding out about what life was like using a range of evidence.  We will be focusing on looking at the Maya lifestyle, trade, beliefs and the influence the Maya had on life today. We will be using artefacts as a source of evidence and looking at key factors that caused the fall of the Ancient Maya.

**Science**

Our science topic this half term will be animals including humans. We will be focusing on the digestive system and performing experiments to gain a deeper understanding of how food is digested. We will then move onto looking at the function of our teeth and compare this to the teeth of animals using the skull of creatures.

**Art and Design**

This half term we will be making a Maya inspired bookmark using binka fabric. The children will be researching Maya fashion to plan a design for their bookmark. Using a range of sewing skills such as the cross stitch, the bookmarks will be made.

**RE**

This term Class 4’s RE theme is incarnation. We will be focusing on the nativity story as told in Matthew, Luke and John. We will be comparing and contrasting the portrayal of the incarnation in these gospels and making links between them.

**Computing**

Our computing topic this half term is online safety. We will be looking at the dangers of phishing, plagiarism, and the significance of spending a healthy and appropriate time online.

**French**

Some of topics we will be covering in French this half term includes members of the family, pets, reciting a poem and Christmas vocabulary.

**PSHE/SRE**

We will be continuing to explore the theme of Health and Well Being in our lessons. Areas include dealing with pressure, a focus on bacteria and viruses and the effects of alcohol and tobacco.

**PE:**

PE will be taught on Thursday and Friday, so children should continue to come to school in their PE kits on these days. The focus this half term is hockey and basketball.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or catch me on the door at the end of the day.

Kind regards,

Miss Farrell