September 2022

**CLASS 4 AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Class 4! I have been very excited to start the new year and meet all your wonderful children and the first few days have been so much fun. I am Miss Farrell and I am your child’s class teacher. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, the class will be taught by Mrs Tuxford. The teaching assistants who will sometimes be in class are Mrs Tuxford and Mr Robinson. We’ve got an exciting first half term ahead of us and I can’t wait to get started. Here are some of the things we will be learning about:

**The Autumn Term Curriculum in Class 4**

**English**

Our English work will be inspired by our history project on the Ancient Maya Civilisation. Our writing and comprehension work will be mainly based around books and videos linked to the topic but we will also have discreet grammar and punctuation lessons. The focus will be on using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, using more exciting and varied vocabulary, using paragraphs and headings to organise our ideas and start to edit their work to spot for errors. We will also look at using apostrophes to show singular and plural possession.

Each Monday the children will be given a new list of ten spellings. These are differentiated according to the children’s learning needs. They will then be tested on them the following Monday. I will be sending out a list of the spellings for the whole half term shortly on yammer and have already given a paper copy. This sheet has all the spelling lists for the next 6 weeks, with the dates of the tests at the top of each list. Please keep the list somewhere safe but you will be able to refer to the electronic copy on yammer too.

The children should all come home with a reading book that is matched to their book band this week. It is expected that the children do at least 3 reads per week with an adult. I know that by this age your children may be able to read independently but there is a massive benefit from reading with adults so I encourage this as much as possible. You can ask them questions about the characters’ feelings and actions and why they are doing things; you can tell them what words and phrases mean and even ask them to predict what might happen next. These are all the kinds of skills they need in comprehension tasks and assessments so it is a great help for them. Please sign in their diaries when you have read with them. If they read three times in a week, there will be rewards on offer for them throughout the year so watch this space. I will check the three reads on a Monday. After you have read at home, remember to pop their reading diary and book back into their bag ready for the next day as they may have a guided reading session with the myself or a parent volunteer.

**Maths**

Learning follows the White Rose Maths scheme, which ties in with the New Primary Curriculum. Key mathematical concepts covered this term include: place value, addition and subtraction, area and multiplication.

A useful way to support your child at home throughout the year would be supporting them with their times tables. Children should also be encouraged to practise their times tables as frequently as possible. By the end of the year, it is expected that children know at least their 1-12 times tables in preparation for the multiplication tables check. We have signed up to the Times Tables Rock Stars website which your child will be able to access to practise these with fun games and challenges. Your child’s password is inside the front cover of their reading diaries.

**History and Geography:**

We are starting the term with learning about the Ancient Maya Civilisation.

This is a fabulous topic with a History/Geography focus where we will be learning all about the major achievements of the time period, as well as looking at what they are best known for, the tools they used, the jobs they did and the foods they ate. This topic will also enhance the children’s skills in map reading, using atlases and finding information in non-fiction books.

**Science:** Our science this half term will be about living things and their habitats. We will be looking at different organisms and how we can classify animals. We will also carry out investigations of our local environment and the impact on wildlife and habitats.

**Art and Design:** The children will be studying the art of the Maya people and we will be using different media to create Maya masks and geometric patterns.

**Computing:** This half term we will be looking at computer programming and learning how to input controls into the computer to get it to do what we want (coding). We will be using the Purple Mash app for this.

**PE:** This half term PE sessions will be on a Thursday and Friday and will be delivered by our specialised PE coaches. They will be enjoying athletics and outdoor adventure activities. Please could children with long hair bring hair bobbles or, preferably, have their hair tied back on these days. With earrings, if the children cannot remove them themselves for the session, could they kindly not wear them on PE days. If this is not possible, please could you send in tape/plasters for the children to wear over the earrings for that session.

**RE**: This half term we will be finding answers to the question ‘What kind of world would Jesus want’.

**PSHE:** The focus will be on the first of our whole school themes for the year, Health and Wellbeing; this includes learning about Healthy Lifestyles, Growing and Changing and Keeping Safe. We will be exploring what a balanced lifestyle is and what we can do to improve our health.

**French:** This half term we will be learning body parts and colours.

**General Information:**

SNACKS AND WATER: Please ensure that your child brings water in their labelled drinking bottles and that they have a healthy snack for morning and/or afternoon. If they bring it in a snack pot, please ensure these are named. No crisps, chocolate or sweets please.

HOMEWORK: The children will receive one piece of maths homework each week and sometimes may have an extra bit of topic to do; they will have the 10 spellings to learn each week; they will be expected to read at least 3 times and practise their times tables .

FOREST SCHOOL: After half term, the children in class 4 will be partaking in Forest School sessions with our outside providers - ‘Little Adventurers’. This sometimes can be a little bit muddy, especially in the autumn term. We kindly ask that your children bring a plastic bag with a pair of old trainers, a pair of old tracksuit bottoms and an old sweater. If the weather looks wet, we will still be going out so please don’t forget a waterproof jacket too. The reason we say ‘old’ clothes is because they may get a bit scruffy. This session is last thing on a Friday so the children may be dismissed at the end of the day in these clothes. If they are going to The Hangout after school club, we’ll get them to change back into their uniform beforehand. If the girls are wearing skirts with tights, we’ll just ask them to put their tracksuit bottoms over their tights before the session starts. I will send a reminder with more information when these sessions start.

We are looking forward to a great year of things being more back to normal. We’ll keep you posted again after half term with another newsletter. Keep an eye out for further information on the whole school newsletters, but please let me know if you have any further questions and I will be more than happy to help.

Kindest Regards,

Miss Farrell.