

Year 4

Spring 1 Newsletter

2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term. We hope you have had a good break with your families.

Ancient Civilisations

This half term we are teaching different subjects through our topic work on "Ancient Civilisations". This topic will include History, Geography, Art and DT. They will learn more about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation and the geographical features that affected lives then. Children will explore the pulley systems used to create the huge constructions during that time, in our DT lessons.



English

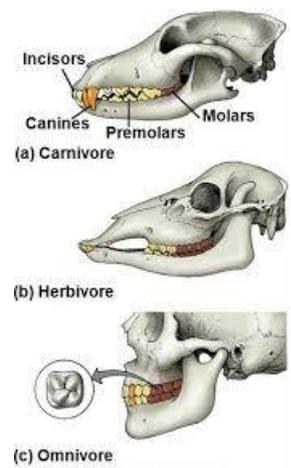
The children will be learning about the difficult genre of journalistic writing. This will be in the context of the discovery of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb. Handwriting and spellings continue to be practised daily. We continue to teach reading skills using the DERIC acronym - Decode, Explain, Retrieve, Interpret, Choice of author. Please could you ask your child to explain these DERIC skills to you!

Maths

We will start the term looking at multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, before moving onto learning methods for multiplication and division. We will then look at length and perimeter of rectilinear shapes in the geometry unit. Towards the end of the half term, we will start to teach the next stage of fractions: improper fractions and mixed numbers. One of the expected standards for Year 4 is to tell the time to the nearest minute in both 12-hour and 24-hour format as well as the analogue format using words. Could you begin to practice reading clock face times at home by asking your child to tell you the time please? Of course, the times tables facts also need work, as all children need to be able to recall all the multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12, within 6 seconds, towards the end of Year 4 when they have the government's Multiplication Tables Check to complete in June. Please remind your children to use 'Times Tables Rockstars' to help learn them and practice their speed of recall.

Science

Our topic this half term is a biological unit based on the digestive system. We will learn how our body uses food and delve deeper into the intestines! This unit also studies the mouth and teeth of other living creatures. We will be able to determine what a living creature would eat based on the types of teeth they have. This leads very well onto the food chains of predators and their prey.



Art

Children will be creating African sunset paintings with an Egyptian-themed silhouette added. The children will use the skills of colour mixing different sunset tones using water colours.

Computing

We begin our unit on handling data through the use of spreadsheets. The children will use the Excel Spreadsheet program to create columns and rows of pirate treasure to be counted!



French

Ms Reddish and Ms Henry continue to teach the French curriculum to Year 4. This half term will focus on the vocabulary for facial features and parts of the body.

P.E kit

All children need to bring the correct kit. P.E uniform is a white, plain, round necked T- Shirt with blue shorts or blue track suit bottoms or black leggings. Please make sure all items are clearly labelled. This half term our units are Skipping Skills (in preparation for the Year 4 skipping competition) and hockey. We will be using the outside MUGA space for our lessons as long as it isn't raining, so please ensure children have the correct (and warm!) PE kit.

Children should tie back long hair and not wear jewellery in P.E., for safety reasons. Earrings must be removed, please refer to the school PE policy (on our website) for more information about this.

PSHE

Personal, Social and Health Education continues to play a huge part in our classrooms as children develop their independence in learning, as well as their individuality in the playground. This half term we focus on the MindMate unit of 'Coping with difficult situations.' Whether that be in the classroom learning, or in the playground with friendships, developing the strategies to cope with negotiating any type of problem that the children encounter is ongoing as we all strive to embody school's values of Care, Growth and Teamwork.

If you have any questions about the activities in Year 4, please ask your child's class teacher.

The Year 4 Team:

Teachers: Mrs Boyd and Miss Davison

Support staff: Mrs Mahmood, Mrs Sandhu