



September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Considering the upheaval over the last six months, the children have settled into life in Year 4 really well and seem excited for the year ahead.

Topic

We are starting the year with a history topic and we will be finding out all about Early Civilizations including the Sumerians, Phoenicians and Minoans. Although there can be no visits to the British Museum this year, we hope to take some virtual tours online in class to bring aspects of these times to life.

English

We will start the first two weeks along with the rest of the school using "Here We Are" by Oliver Jeffers, as a way of exploring and discussing the events of the last six months. The remaining 4 weeks, we will use "Varjack Paw" by SF Said, where the children will have opportunities for drama, storytelling, news reports and other genres of writing as well as cross-curricular links to PE and Art. In grammar this term, our objectives will include determiners, articles, pronouns and nouns.

Maths

Coverage for this half term is split between Place Value, including rounding numbers, and Addition and Subtraction, using formal and informal methods. I am very conscious that many of the children have lost confidence and/or understanding owing to their absence from formal teaching, so I am adjusting the pace at which we cover the curriculum accordingly. It is possible that children will be expected to take a formal test of their times tables by the end of year 4, as was planned pre Covid-19, and I will be conducting regular times tables tests in class; I would really appreciate your help in assisting your child with learning their tables this half term.

RE

We have three RE topics for the Autumn term. They are:

Domestic church – family	BEGINNINGS
Baptism/Confirmation – belonging	SIGNS AND SYMBOLS
Christmas – loving	PREPARATIONS

Our other faith this term will be JUDAISM

Science

Our first science topic is "FOOD AND DIGESTION" where the children will learn about what happens to the food we eat, specifically about the function of our teeth and the digestive system.

PE

Our class PE sessions with Coach Dan are now on Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that the correct PE kit (please see our website for details) is named and worn to school on Thursdays until further notice.

Spellings

Spellings will be posted on Fridays for a spelling test for the following Friday. The children will have a variety of exercises connected with these weekly lists as part of their Early Morning Work but I would be grateful if you could also help your child practise these spellings.

Homework

Maths homework will be posted on Tuesdays to be completed by Friday.
English/Topic will be given Friday for completion on Monday.

Reading

Children are expected to read at home every day; this could include ebooks on Kindles or articles online, as well as books or magazines. Books can be chosen at school from our class collection or school library, however, at present, they are to be read in class time but not taken home. For this reason, we expect that your child should have a separate book which they read at home also. At the moment, there are no plans to have our usual reading record books as they increase the risk of infection from school to home and back again. We will inform you as soon as this measure changes.

Mathletics and TT Rockstars

Please do use Mathletics and TT Rockstars. These are such great resource that the school provides. Reminders of log in details will soon be included on Google Classroom.

I am really looking forward to working with you and your children. Please do email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr Bathmaker & Mrs Cernuschi