

Curriculum Newsletter – spring term 1 2018

Happy New Year and welcome back to Year 4! We hope you have had a great break and are looking forward to Spring 1. Year 4 are excited this term to unlock our creativity and delve into the fantastical world of **Alice in Wonderland!** We will be letting our imaginations go wild and would encourage you to read and explore fantasy stories for inspiration! Thank you, as ever, for your support. ☺ If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask the Year 4 Team.



Achieving Success

Literacy

We will be following Alice down the rabbit hole and creating our own fantasy narratives and poems about Wonderland. Focussing on scenes such as 'The Madhatter's Tea Party' and 'The Trail', we will be letting our imaginations go wild and writing our own Wonderland narratives. Later in the term, we will be exploring Lewis Carroll's 'The Jabberwocky' and other nonsense poems, before writing our own!

Mathematics

This term we delve into data, fractions, time, and securing multiplications facts and patterns.

As per our homework task over the break, the focus for work at home should be on times tables. It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is that students know their tables. It is a major factor in achieving the required success by the end of year 4.

The fractions unit is particularly large, and the students will be covering many new concepts, all of which revolve around knowing times tables.

Class Book

Ghana class will move over to reading *The Firework Maker's Daughter*, and then onto *Perry Angel's Suitcase*. *Perry Angel's suitcase* is part of a series of books that the students can read through if they so desire. Brazil class will begin reading *Charlotte's Web* – a classic!

Questioning and discussions during class book time are continuing to focus on inference.

What did the author mean when he/she says ...? As per the parent evening, we believe that this is something that you can continue to do at home whilst you are listening to, or reading to your child.

Science

This term we delve into Water, Acids and Alkalis. What is water, and what are acids and alkalis? Following on from our unit on light, without which there would be no life, we move onto water – perhaps the most amazing molecule in the universe. The first few lessons will deepen our knowledge of water, as the vast majority of chemical reactions on Earth take place in or using water.

We will be looking into the pH scale, and conducting experiments to determine whether something is an acid, or an alkalis.

History

Linking to our Alice in Wonderland topic, we will be learning what life was like in the real Royal Tudor Court.

PSHE

Year 4 will continue our work on becoming more resilient with our feelings. We will be following a series of conflict resolution questions specifically designed to ensure students are not carrying worries around with them that can be dealt with at school.

Physical Education –

We will be focusing on cardiovascular endurance by running long distances, muscular endurance with repetitive muscular movements like squatting or press ups etc. We will also be focusing on co-ordination by throwing and catching with the dominant and non-dominant hand in addition to agility where we will be doing the Illinois agility test. We will be recording our results on the first and last week and hopefully see an improvement.

P.E sessions will be on Thursdays with our award winning P.E teacher Mr Mackenzie.

Art

In Art this term, Year 4 will be learning about Salvador Dali and the Surrealist movement. We will be investigating Dali's work and having a go at creating our own surreal pieces.

Other Useful Information Every Monday pupils will have a library session. P.E will occur on **Thursday** (for both classes), and a Creative session is scheduled for **Wednesdays**; children will need to be in their P.E kits for these two days.

Please continue to read with an adult for around 20 minutes every evening. This is important as the children are superb readers and now need the opportunity to show this off by reading aloud for intonation purposes and to explore how to engage someone when reading. It would also be a fantastic opportunity for meaningful discussion around the book also.

Aspiration & Achievement – Scholarship – Perseverance – Integrity – Respect & Responsibility – Enthusiasm

Further guidance with supporting Maths learning

All times tables (yes, again and for always!).

Time

To know that there are 24 hours in 1 day , 60 minutes in 1 hour, 60 seconds in 1 minute.

- To understand and be able to convert time between analogue and digital 12-hour and 24-hour clocks.
- To convert time between hours and minutes, and minutes and seconds – *how many minutes in 2 hours , how many seconds in 15 minutes etc*
- To convert time between years and months, and weeks and days – *how many days in each months, how many weeks in a year, how many days etc.*

Also, use different language when talking about time. For example, quarter to, half past, etc – what do these mean? In order for students to learn this they need constant exposure. So, every time you are heading off somewhere, use a time reference with your child so they get the chance to practice.

Maths Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zbr9wmn>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=20>

<http://www.timestables.me.uk>