

Dear Parents,

YEAR 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM

Dear Parents, Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas/break. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and energy and they have made a great start to 2024 already. They also appear to have grown- they are so much taller! We have lots of exciting subjects and topics planned for the Spring term and we are looking forward to building on their successes from the Autumn term.

English

We will be focusing on writing news reports using traditional fairy tales for inspiration: we may be adding a new twist or two! We will also be using The Great Chocoplot as a writing inspiration, looking at themes, events and effective sentence structures as well as looking at the persuasive language and convincing details and techniques found in holiday brochures. Apologies in advance if the children request luxury breaks in the Maldives! In all of these units, the children will plan and write their own independent pieces using ambitious and subject specific vocabulary, focused grammar techniques as well as improving on the basic skills of writing. We will also be developing their reading comprehension skills in targeted lessons. We will also be practising handwriting, joining up, consistent letter size and shape and we look forward to handing more out pen licenses too! Reading is an essential learning skill and we would like to see more reading journals in on Monday Mornings. It is always lovely to see what they are reading and how frequently they are reading too. Parents are welcome to write a comment too; especially if you're enjoying the books they are sharing with you.

Maths

In Maths, we will continue to focus on Multiplication and Division, developing their understanding of written formal methods to solve a variety of word problems. We will then be looking at Perimeter where we will be calculating perimeters of rectangles, rectilinear shapes and polygons. As the term progresses, we will then move onto Fractions where we will be simplifying, finding equivalents, converting improper fractions into proper fractions and ordering fractions too. We will then move onto problem solving using fractions to consolidate learning. The aim throughout the term will be to become more adept at reasoning to solve challenges both independently and in groups. Continued consolidation of their basic skills is a key area as this will build their confidence as we move forward towards the end of year; therefore, we ask that the children are continuing to regularly practise their times tables on and corresponding division facts at home to aid them in this. We would like the children to challenge themselves on 'Studio' on TTRockstars a minimum of 3 times a week. Short regular sessions are most effective for learning and retaining knowledge, and this will prove really important as we approach their **Year 4 Times Table Assessment**.

Science

During the first half of the Spring term, we will be learning about Living Things and their Habitats. We will be classifying them using common features as well as using keys to identify, group and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. We have already been impressed with their knowledge and interest shown of the natural world- a great start to the topic. Using their knowledge of how important habitats are, we will then look at conservation in the second half of the term. We will be looking at how environments can change and that changes can pose threat and dangers to living things.

Computing

Year 4 will be writing and recording their own blog style presentations and interviews. They will be learning how to input and edit audio recordings and create a podcast.

The Arts

The Children will be studying the sculpture of swiss artist Alberto Giacometti. They will be looking at the figurative poses sculpted by the artist before creating their own maquettes, using a variety of materials and techniques taught. The children will then use the history topic of The Mayans to inspire their own glyphs from clay.

Humanities

Our Geography topic in the first half term will be all about India. We will be studying the different cultures and reflect on the differences and similarities with our own lives. The children will be generating questions, using maps, atlases and interactive mapping tools, compass points (navigation) and using keys to represent data. We will also look at how India has an effect on our daily lives and those around us.

After the half term break, we will learning all about The Mayans. The children will learn about their religion (including sacrifice), their temples, calendar and number system as well as looking at their sustainable lifestyles.

Health and Wellbeing

Our Personal, Social and Health Education sessions are embedded throughout our curriculum and focus this term on how the children are able to keep themselves and others safe – looking at the following: identifying risks and risky situations; using the internet safely; what is safe to share online; medicines and drugs. We will be reinforcing the 'talk to one of your trusted adults' throughout the term.

PE

Our PE will consist of swimming on a Tuesday afternoon and PE on a Thursday. In the pool, the children will be developing their basic strokes, developing stamina and will also be introduced to lifesaving skills. In our PE sessions, the children will be developing their core strength, flexibility, coordination, stamina and balance through yoga and aerobic exercises. The children will then develop a variety of skills including communication and teamwork within games such as throw tennis and bench ball.

Spellings

There will be weekly challenge words (Orange Words' as the children know them – check ClassDojo each week), which they will be tested on every Tuesday; these are standalone words and are not connected to the spelling patterns they learn during their lessons. Instead, the children are encouraged to use them in their writing whenever they can but could also practise them at home in their little red books. They will be posted on Dojo weekly.

RE

In RE, we will be learning about Christianity in action. The children will be studying how the Christian faith responds to global issues of human rights, fairness and social justice. They will be encouraged to make links between ways of belonging to a Christian community, and their own experiences of motivation, actions, caring and commitment.

French

This term the children will be learning how to talk about pets and animals – knowing how to recognise and say their names while also describing general features.

Music

The children will study rhythm, timbre, musical notation, sing in rounds and make compositional decisions playing a variety of instruments.

Key Dates

Please refer to the website via the following link:

<https://www.nicholashawksmooracademy.com/events/>

Homework

TTRockstars: Please encourage your child to complete a minimum of 30 minutes per week. A little and often will help children to retain their knowledge.

Weekly Reading: Please encourage your child to read as much as possible and evidence this in their reading Journals that are due in each Monday. We are encouraging the children to read daily - either independently or with an adult.

Our Golden Rules: Be ready. Be safe. Be respectful.

Across the school, we are working to develop children's character and understanding of responsibility. As a result, each year group have created three pledges to achieve by the end of the year with the children.

Our Pledges:

1. School Community. We will plant spring bulbs on the field. ✓
2. Local Community. We will write and send out letters of thanks to people who serve our community.
3. Learning something new. We will learn how to 'sign' the alphabet. ✓

2 down, 1 to go. Thank you for the donations of bulbs that we planted in the Autumn. We are looking forward to seeing the spring bulbs in April (provided our resident squirrels haven't dug them all up). The children also learned to 'sign' the chorus for 'we wish you a merry Christmas.' We hoped you enjoyed it.

If any parents have expertise in the topic areas coming up, please get in touch- we would love to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing you all at Parent's Evening in March, but in the meantime if you have any questions or concerns, please pop in or give us a call. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

The Year 4 Team



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