

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 2026 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 starting the term by looking at the style and structure of writing in a travel brochure, to then create their own persuasive writing piece. After this we will be writing an narrative based on the book "The Great Choco Plot". 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. During all of our lessons we will 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 Friday Mornings**. We are encouraging the children to read a variety of books at school and they are welcome to bring their own books in from home. 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 equivalent, 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 practise on 'Garage' each day but also 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**. We will be encouraging the children to get involved in the school Times Table Rock Star battles to build their enthusiasm for practising.

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 using a lap top computer and iPads.

The Arts

In Art this term, Year 4 will be learning about Swiss sculptor, painter, draftsman and printmaker Alberto Giacometti. They will study his drawings and sculptures and create their own interpretation in a similar style.

Humanities

In History this term 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. After half term we will study migration in Geography, learning about the movement of people around the world.

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 Monday. 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 gymnastics.

Spellings

There will be **weekly challenge words that will be posted on Class Dojo on a Friday**, which they will be tested on the following Friday; these will be a selection of “Orange Words” (standalone words and are not connected to the spelling patterns they learn during their lessons) alongside the words following spelling rules that we will learn in class.

RE

In RE, we will be learning about Humanism and what kind of world they want to live in. This will include learning about working together to make the world a better place and how each of us can make a difference. After half term our unit will be about Christianity and their views about the life of Jesus. This will include a variety of parables and stories from the Bible.

French

This term the children will be learning about the French calendar, including numbers to 31, days of the week and months of the year. Our second unit will be how to describe the weather in French.

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 35 minutes per week. A little and often will help children to retain their knowledge so the 35 minutes should be short sessions over a number of days.

Weekly Reading: Please encourage your child to read as much as possible and evidence this in their reading Journals that are due in each Friday. 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:

School Community. To read stories to reception children

Local Community. To write thank you letters and cards to community & emergency service workers

Learning something new. To learn a song in another language

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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Artistic and Athletic Excellence

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