



Autumn Curriculum Newsletter Year 4

Key Dates and Important Messages

- Your child will receive homework each week, we expect the children to complete homework on time with good presentation. This homework is handed out every Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Please let us know if you have any problems with the homework - we will be happy to help.
- Children must read for at least 20 minutes per night and their reading record should be signed.
- Please make sure that all school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's first and second name. PE kits should go home fortnightly on a Friday to be washed.
- Homework is handed out every Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday; please let us know if you have any problems with the homework - we will be happy to help.
- Macmillan coffee morning will take place on Friday 27th September and we encourage the children to bring in baked goods to help this worthy cause. You should all have received a letter about this.

Talk for writing

Our writing unit is based on 'The Wild Girl' by Chris Wormell. The story is about a girl surviving in the wild and tracking down a bear. It is important the children learn the story map sent home so that it can support them when they writing their own narrative. Next half term, the children will be writing a story with a time portal.

How you can help

Encourage them to read! Good readers make good writers. Summarising what they have read aloud to you is really helpful. You could also encourage them to practice retelling the Wild Girl to you. We expect children to demonstrate good handwriting and punctuation so it would be ideal if this is reinforced at home.

Maths Mastery

We are currently covering place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). It is really important children are confident using their written methods so they can solve a range of problems. Next half term we will also be look at representing and interpreting data. This will include looking at bar graphs, pie charts, time tables, line graphs etc.

How you can help

Please encourage them to practice their times tables! By the end of Year 4 they need to be able to recall their times tables to 12 quickly and with ease. Mathematics and Timetables Rock Stars is a really useful tool for this.

PSHE and RE

In RE we have been learning about Buddhism. They are starting to understand Buddhism as a religion and how to identify Buddhists. In PSHE we are looking at rights and responsibilities and living in the wider world. We will be learning about our wellbeing and what influences our decisions about our health.

How you can help

You could ask your children about the different religions as and when questions come up, and encourage them to use research where they don't know the answer.

Enquiry curriculum:

This half term we looking at the Anglo Saxons, we will be studying their way of life by looking at their culture, religion, pass times and more. The children will be learning about reliable sources and chronology as well thinking of appropriate questions to ask. Next half term we will be looking at the Vikings.

How you can help

You could encourage your children to ask questions about events such as climate change and what being eco-friendly really means. You could help guide their research into the topics as we cover them to allow them to deepen their understanding.

Our school development priorities

Reading



This year we are continuing to focus on reading, ensuring our children are the best readers they can be. As you know, reading is a vital skill for our children to develop and it ensures their success in all other areas of the curriculum. This term they will read a range of challenging texts and will have opportunities to enjoy reading and share their favourite books. We are developing children's confidence through drama and discussion, encouraging them to share their views and opinions. At home, your child should be reading every day. If they find reading difficult, you can encourage them to use their Fred talk to sound out words. Children benefit from having good reading models, so if you are able to read aloud to your child it will benefit their reading skills. It is useful to question your child about what they are reading. If you would like more guidance on this, talk to your child's teacher and refer to the reading list which has been sent home. Please take some time to visit the library and explore different texts, such as non-fiction, novels, picture books, graphic novels and magazines.

Health and well-being As you are aware, we as a school are committed in developing our children to not only become lifelong learners but people who are healthy both in mind and body. For this reason, we have now agreed to be part of a programme called 'Active Movement', which is focussed on encouraging children to be just a little bit more active in the day, such as stand up to answer, move around the class when saying their times tables and just be a little bit more active as part of their everyday lessons. In addition to this children will be going on walks around the school (you will see the posters around the school) and enjoying the lovely site we have. As well as exercising, it is imperative we teach our children how to eat healthily, as habits are formed very early in life. Hence we have put together a healthy eating policy which can be accessed on the school website or from the school office. We talk to children about their mental well-being in school and have worry boxes for them to share their anxieties or concerns with their teachers. To help your children at home, encourage your children to share what they did at school, any concerns they had or things they are excited about.



Problem solving

Children spend every day in school going over their times table and in addition to their normal maths lesson the children have a maths meet, in which we share and recap previous learning, practising and refining skills which have already been taught. This daily revisit enables the muscle memory to remember the mathematical concepts and become embedded. Timetables are something which will be remembered if you practise daily. You can do this through games, reciting, different computer apps or songs such as

To enable your children to become problem solvers, why not give them real –life problems to solve where they can practise and apply their maths learning. For example asking them to work out how many minutes or hours till the bus arrives, the change given in the shop, how many ingredients you need if you double the quantity.

Here is a link to Mathletics, all children will soon receive their own password. <http://uk.mathletics.com/>

