

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and that the children are well rested and raring to go for another year. I am really looking forward to teaching your children and taking on the challenges ahead. I will teach the children all week except for Thursday afternoons when the children will be taught by Mrs Berry for computing and music or French, and Friday morning when they will have Mrs Berry for RE and Mr Packer for PE. Mrs Goode will be the TA providing a wide range of support including interventions, focused teaching in small groups and extension activities.

Diary dates

Friday 27th September - Macmillan coffee afternoon

Tuesday 1st October - individual photos

Friday 18th October - last day of Term 1

Year 4 Curriculum content

Literacy

The majority of our work this term will be linked to the Victorian themed text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. The children will complete a range of tasks including diary and letter writing, poetry and character based work. Other genres of writing completed in Term 1 will include explanatory writing and a narrative unit about an alien landing! We will also do regular spelling practice, grammar work and handwriting practice. Extended writing sessions will take place regularly to ensure we have a wide range of evidence to support on-going assessment of writing.

Numeracy

Topics this term will include place value up to 100 000; column addition and subtraction; equivalent fractions; adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator; counting in hundredths and decimal equivalents to fractions. We will also complete investigative and problem solving activities, arithmetic sessions and times tables practice. **By the end of Year 4 it is expected that the children know all their times tables up to 12 x 12;** they will be formally assessed on this towards the end of the academic year. Please try and make time at home to practise times tables on a regular basis.

Science

Our topic for this term is 'States of Matter'. During these lessons the children will be exploring the differences between solids, liquids and gases; learning about evaporation and condensation; investigating how materials change when heated or cooled and learning about the water cycle.

Computing

We start with a safety week looking at safe behaviours when playing and working on line. This will be followed by a look at databases and how computers have become essential in the organisation, classification and retrieval of digital information. Children will use Purple Mash to sort files and retrieve information from a data base already set up. They will then turn detective and set up their own databases and solve a murder mystery!

History

For the first two terms we will complete a longer study on the Victorians. Work will include research on Queen Victoria, investigating a range of artefacts to learn about the past, what it was like to be a child in Victorian times, workhouses, inventions and Victorian Christmas traditions. Please encourage

your son or daughter to further their knowledge on the topic by completing any additional research or activities at home, which can then be shared at school. To enhance and support our learning further, a trip to Kent Life has been booked for Wednesday 4th December - more details to follow in a separate letter.

RE

Our first unit of work this year focuses on life as a journey: we will complete learning about Christian Baptism, Jewish Bar Mitzvah, marriage and Hindu views on the afterlife.

Art

In art we will be focusing on the contemporary artist Sandra Silberzweig, completing colourful portrait work using chalks and pastel.

Music

Our unit 'Play it again' explores rhythmic patterns - the children will invent and play melodic ostinatos on the glockenspiels and will learn how rhythms can be described through rhythmic symbols (notations).

PSHE

Difference and diversity of people living in the UK is our focus for the term. We will consider the ethnic diversity and customs of our society, how we are similar and different, bullying and gender stereotyping.

French

Our unit 'On y va' (All aboard) focuses on the weather, days of the week and transport.

PE

Basketball and tag rugby will be this term's activities; PE lessons will take place on Tuesday and Friday. Kit consists of a plain red T-shirt, plain black shorts, trainers and black plimsolls for indoor sessions. As the weather begins to get colder the children are also allowed to bring a tracksuit for outdoor PE lessons. Please mark every item with your child's name. If your child wears stud earrings please remember that these need to be removed for lessons or covered with micropore.

Homework

Homework and spellings will be set every Thursday, to be handed in or tested on the following Tuesday. Children will be expected to practise their weekly spellings in whichever way they find most effective or they can be provided with a grid if preferred. They will also have a times tables sheet to complete each week which they will choose dependent on the areas needed to be improved.

Reading

Please encourage daily reading of 15-20 minutes, which should be recorded in their Home School Record book. The children are free to read their scheme reading book or a book from the class or school library.

Stationery

Please note, the children will be provided with all the equipment they need for school so they do not need to bring a pencil case in with their own items. From experience I have discovered this just provides a great distraction from their learning!

If you have any questions or queries please pop in or I can also be contacted via email:

debbie.creigh@bad.kent.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Creigh, Mrs Berry & Mrs Goode