



Year 4 NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2022

Welcome to the second term in Year 4



Our Themes this term are: **Invasion** and **Eco Explorers**

In the first half of the term, Anglo Saxons and Vikings will be invading our theme learning. Our historical timeline begins in 400AD, when the Romans left Britain. We will explore a range of artefacts and deepen our knowledge about the cultural history of Britain. We will become archaeologists and explore ancient sites (in school) to help us learn more about our Anglo-Saxon and Viking heritage. We will learn about the reasons for the Vikings' settlement and their ancient Gods! Through reading Beowulf, we will become even better story-tellers, by becoming familiar with this well-known cultural myth.

In the second half term, we will consider our responsibilities as an Eco Explorer. We will become 'plastic-fantastic' as we endeavour to make our school a sustainable place, sharing the motto 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' with other learners. We will use our school grounds to learn all about habitats and eco-systems. We will protect and raise awareness of our buzzy friend – the bee. We will study the insect during English, writing to people in power to try to convince them to protect the fragile species as well as constructing a bee bungalow in DT – saws at the ready!

These are key learning objectives we will be covering in English and Mathematics

In reading we will be learning to:

- increase our familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths and legends, and retell some of these orally
- ask questions to improve our understanding of a text
- draw inferences and justify inferences with evidence

In writing we will be learning to:

- use fronted adverbials (followed by a comma) at the start of a sentence, for example 'Interestingly, ...'
- use conjunctions to explain the cause of something, such as 'due to', 'as', 'if'...
- continue to build our rich and varied vocabulary.

In maths we will be learning to:

- recall multiplication and division facts for all of the times tables (up to 12 x 12), as learners are expected to recall the facts within 5 seconds
- solve problems involving multiplying and adding
- solve problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number
- recognise and write decimal equivalents to $\frac{1}{4}$; $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{3}{4}$

Helping Your Child at Home

Reading

To help your child develop their reading skills, you could support them by asking them to 'read between the lines' and look for clues in the text. Inference is a vital skill in our CRAW sessions, and helps to deepen the children's understanding of the texts they read. You could encourage your child to make comments and form opinions on what they are reading, as well as making links between themes.

Writing and Spelling

Our focus this term is to spell the majority of the Year 3/4 Common Exception Words correctly (please see list communicated previously). Please support us by encouraging your child to learn the spelling strategies for the target spellings in their individual 'Spelling Passports'. In school, we will be practicing through our spelling folders and quizzes.

You could also support your child at home with their handwriting by encouraging them to form their ascenders and descenders correctly, and at a clear legible size - not too big, not too small, just right! 😊

Mathematics

For every learner, the priority is to practise ALL their times tables facts, so that they feel confident when applying these facts to problem solving in lessons. Even if your child has learnt all their times tables, keeping their knowledge fresh and practising division facts is important! It would also help if they could practise reading an analogue clock, and converting between a 12 and 24 hour clock.

Our PDL SCARF Learning



To support the teaching of PDL (Personal Development Learning) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) in school, we use resources and planning provided by SCARF. SCARF's resources promote positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement.

SCARF stands for: Safety - Caring - Achievement - Resilience - Friendship.

For your awareness, these are the SCARF units being taught this term with brief details of what will be covered.

Keeping Myself Safe

During this unit your child will learn about:

- the terms 'danger', 'risk' and 'hazard' and situations which include these
- what images are safe or unsafe to share online and dealing with dares
- how medicines are drugs and help prevent infectious diseases
- some of the risks of smoking and drinking alcohol
- managing risks to themselves or others
- how they can be influenced both positively and negatively

Rights and Responsibilities

During this unit your child will learn about:

- how the school and local community help keep them safe
- the rights and responsibilities we all have
- why we have rules, decision making and the democratic process
- how media presents a topic
- how organisations help take care of the environment
- the monetary terms *income*, *expenditure*, *income tax*, *National Insurance* and *VAT*

Dates of Special Events in Year 4

In **February**, we are planning to host a Viking Artefacts visit and combine it with a Viking Dress Up Day. We will communicate this date to parents/carers when confirmed and recommend costumes are ready by 1st February 2022.

We will also be having an Eco Visitor in during the **second half term**.

Thank you for your continued support
Year 4 Team