

Year 4 Newsletter : Spring 1 2020

Happy new year and welcome back to another half term in Year 4. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready to start another term, jam-packed with exciting learning.

Our new thematic topic this term involves your child finding out lots about the continent of Europe! I am really excited about this new topic and I'm sure the children will love it too. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your efforts with homework last term. It was lovely to see so many children doing so well with their spelling, reading and times tables thanks to your fantastic support with these at home.

Myself and Mrs Marlow are looking forward to another term and as always, if you have any concerns, please come and talk to one of us.

Thank you,
Miss Ball

Thematic Learning

Our topic this half term is 'what will we find on our European road trip?'. We will be kicking off our learning by locating Europe on the world map before looking at ways in which we might leave the country by plotting major airports, ports and the Channel Tunnel.

Our first stop will be Norway! We will be looking at the landscape type, locating the capital city and identifying key municipalities and key trades. After studying the indigenous Sami people, we will be moving on to explore the spectacular phenomena known as 'The Northern Lights' and learning all about the Norse legends that surround them.

We then move to Russia, exploring its famous landmarks before recreating Saint Basil's Cathedral, the famous Russian landmark using the artistic technique 'Batik'.

After that, we will be looking at France by researching, drafting and publishing a Parisian tour guide.

Spain will be our fourth stop. After examining the work of the famous architect Gaudi, we will be designing and creating a clay tile to represent his decorative mosaic-style.

Finally we will arrive in Italy. We will be looking at famous Italian ingredients and dishes before cooking up one of our own!

Dates for your diary

Friday 10th January- West Midlands Fire Service SPARKS fire safety talk.

Tuesday 11th February- Year 4 Community litter picking event (13:30-14:30)

Friday 14th March- last day of term

P.E

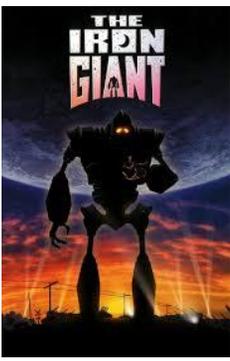
Please ensure your child brings their PE kit in every Monday and takes it home every Friday. Although children will also be swimming, they will still have a weekly P.E lesson.

White t-shirt, dark bottoms and appropriate footwear is the standard expectation.

Jewellery is not permitted and long hair must be tied back.

Swimming will continue every Monday. Girls should bring a one piece swimsuit and boys should bring speedo style trunks. All children need a hat, towel and named bag.

In Science, children will be exploring the topic 'Animals including humans'. We will be continuing to look closely at the digestive system and the different components it is made up off as well as looking closely at food chains by learning all about producers, predators and prey.



Literacy

In Literacy this term, we will be looking closely at the book 'Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and the movie 'Iron Giant' directed by Brad Bird. We will be making links between the story and film and understanding what the director does to create scenes of an imagined world. We will be producing some exciting descriptions about the scenery and characters along with writing a non-chronological report all about robots!

Numeracy

This half term, Year 4 will be extending their knowledge of addition and subtraction to numbers with up to 4 digits. We will be solving problems and explaining logically how we reached our answers. During fraction work, we will be finding equivalent fractions and understanding what they look like in order to recognise fractions of objects. From this, we will sequence, compare and solve problems using fractions. We will also be reading co-ordinates on a graph and finally interpreting a range of graphs which will lead us onto next half term.

This half term, your child must be able to recall all their multiplication tables to 12 x 12 in order to achieve the expected standard. Could you please make it a priority at home to practice all these multiplication tables regularly through Times Table Rockstars. Thank you.

Attendance and Punctuality

The continued message from last year is of course that 'Every Day Matters' - Every day that your child misses is a day of learning lost. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends school every day and is in school ready to start their learning by 8.50am.

Homework

In Year 4, children are expected to develop some independent work skills. This includes reading (approx 20-30minutes per night) We are trying to encourage a love of reading at County Bridge and would love you to share some of your favorite books, stories, poems etc. with your child. Reading books will also be sent home from school & your child will have the opportunity to take a free choice book from our school library. Any reading that they do at home should be from a mixture of these two books or even a book from home.

Your child has a Reading Journal and we encourage you to write in this book when you hear your child read. We would really love to create a dialogue between parents and school. Thanks.

Individual spellings will also be sent home weekly. Your child is expected to learn their spellings by carrying out Look, Cover, Write & Check and then using the spellings in context by writing interesting and varied sentences.

Year 4 will receive the new format Homework Challenge sheet at the end of this week. The focus is still on children working collaboratively with family members at home and expressing their learning from their current topic but they will only have one challenge to complete. This piece will be due by the end of the half term: the expectation being that the piece represents the amount of time that they have had to complete it. We hope that you enjoy this new format.

Please support your child in completing their weekly homework however by Year 4 they really need to be developing their independence and should be responsible themselves for bringing it back on time.