

YEAR 4 - THE AUTUMN TERM



Welcome to the Autumn Term in Year 4

I hope you had a wonderful, restful summer break. Here's a brief breakdown of what's in store for the term.

R.E.

Our two topics are *The Bible* and *Trust in God*. In the first topic we will understand that the Bible is one story told through many different chapters. Within these, God tells us about Himself. Your child will also be expected to know some stories from the Old and New Testament. In the second topic, your child will realise that Jesus teaches us how to have faith and trust in Him. This will tie in with our Advent liturgy when we look at the promises made to Mary and Joseph and why they trusted God.

English

Writing will be connected to our history topic about the Second World War. Our class book will be the children's classic *Carrie's War*. From that, we will be studying how to write an informal letter and a newspaper report (including the correct use of dialogue) based on evacuation and the evacuees' experiences.

Grammar lessons will build on those from previous years with children expected to remember the correct terminology as well as being able to write examples. We will start with expanded noun phrases - adding detail to the noun (the boy would become the young, brown-eyed boy; the girl would become the young girl with curly black hair); use of pronouns (for example, I, he, she, it) to avoid repeating nouns and fronted adverbials (these go at the beginning of a sentence and adds detail to a verb - how, when or where something happened. Before I go to bed, I clean my teeth). Your child will be tested regularly on his/ her spellings and spelling rules will be revisited. Included with this letter is the statutory spelling list. This is the same as Year 3 so, by the end of the year, your child will have had two years to learn them.

Comprehension skills will continue to be assessed by making sure your child understands what he/she reads. This includes direct and inferential questioning. Independent reading as well as guided reading will be carried out regularly. Children are welcome to read their own, suitable and age appropriate books (a list of some books is included with this newsletter) but there are many books available in class. The more a child reads/is read to, the better his/her writing becomes.

Maths

THIS YEAR SEES THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TIMES TABLE TESTS WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONLINE IN JUNE. CHILDREN WILL HAVE SIX SECONDS TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION - THERE WILL BE 25 IN ALL. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO KNOW THE MULTIPLICATION TABLES UP TO 12X12 WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE 6,7,8, 9 AND 12 TIMES TABLES AS THEY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST CHALLENGING. TIMES TABLES ARE PRACTISED AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PRACTISED REGULARLY IN CLASS BUT PLEASE SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR LEARNING AT HOME.

We will start the year with place value as your child needs to know the value of each digit in a number up to and beyond 10,000. This will help with their understanding of column addition and subtraction as well as multiplication. Your child knows that accuracy comes first but speed is also important especially with mental maths which he/she is tested on regularly.

Science

Our topics in science include *Living Things* and *Teeth and Eating*. In the first topic we will identify how living things can be classified and why this is important as well as creating a simple key showing how a series of yes and no

questions can assist with identification. In the second we will concentrate on the different types of teeth and digestion before moving on to predators, prey and food chains.

P.E.

Lessons are on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. I hope the weather will allow us to spend as much time as possible outdoors. Please make sure your child brings his/her training shoes on these days - please don't wear these to school unless they are plain black. Wearing a P.E. kit is a must and, for safety reasons, no jewellery must be worn.

Geography, History, Music, Art and DT, Computing.

Throughout the year, Mrs Malone will teach geography, history and music on Tuesday afternoons. The first history topic will tie in with the English unit and focus on the Second World War.

Computing and Art link to English and history but we will start with internet safety.

Homework

Book bags will be sent home on Friday and need to be returned on Tuesday. The notes you make in their reading diary are important so, in advance, thank you for doing this. Spellings will be sent home on Friday and your child needs to practise these every night in readiness for a test on Thursday. The spelling sheets do not have to be returned as their scores will show if they have learned them and will allow them to continue learning them at home. When other homework is set it will be sent home on Friday and needs to be returned on the following Tuesday.