



Class 4 Curriculum Newsletter September 2015



Welcome to Class 4! In this newsletter is an overview of the work we will be covering during this half term; our curriculum theme is 'Hearts and Minds' and much of our work will link with this. There are also some reminders and information for you too. If you have any queries, please contact me – either have a chat in the playground or make an appointment through the school office. Do make a date in your diary for the 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 23 September, the Maths evening on Tuesday 6 October, Parents' Evenings nearer half term, and importantly our Class Worship on **Friday 16 October**. It will be lovely to see you all there!

Miss Maddison



English & Maths & Science

This half term in English we will be analysing and writing stories involving a mountain setting. Through reading and understanding different texts, using our imagination and discussion our current class reader – Jacqueline Wilson's *Hetty Feather* – we will develop our empathy with characters and consider their thoughts and feelings. We will learn to use different sentence types, thesauruses and other writer's tricks to make our work interesting for a reader. We will also be practising a joined handwriting style.

In maths, we will be consolidating and developing our understanding of place value, negative numbers and decimals. We will also be practising methods for addition and subtraction, looking at angles and properties of shape in geometry, and learning to calculate the perimeter and area of shapes. We will also be learning to read, write and convert between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clock. Any practise of telling the time at home will significantly help children to become confident with this.

Mrs Tait will teach science in Class 4 on Thursday mornings. This half term our science topic is focussed on solids, liquids and gases and changes of state. Much of the work will involve investigations. Recording these experiments and data collected will ensure we develop and apply our mathematical skills of statistics too.



Homework

Homework tasks – either Learning Logs or writing homework – will be set on Wednesdays and are due in on Mondays. Over these five days, children are expected to spend about 45 minutes on these tasks.

Children should also make a note of the KIRF work they undertake at home to help learn mental maths facts. This should be recorded on the sheets at the back of the Learning Logs. Weekly KIRF Challenge scores are recorded here and parents/carers should sign these records please. Access to Mathletics is still available. This is a superb resource for children and is very much encouraged but is not formally part of homework expectations.

Reading records will be checked every Thursday. In Class 4, children are expected to read every day – school reading books, library books, magazines or comics, books from home or on Kindles. Children are also expected to read aloud to an adult and discuss what they have read. Parents/Carers should sign (and comment if you wish) in reading records as well.

Spelling tests take place on Fridays and spellings are given out for the following Friday as well. These will be a mixture of words that children in Year 4 or Year 5 are expected to learn, some may follow a particular spelling rule or pattern and others may link to work in other subjects. Please support children in learning how to spell these words.



Hearts & Minds



Our RE work this half term concentrates on looking at how people express their faith in God. We will consider the use of music, art and dance as different ways in which faith is conveyed as well as considering how we express ourselves. In PE we will use dance to show different emotions and characters, making use of rhythm, tempo, gestures and movement. In our other PE lesson we will practise basic skills and fitness. Please ensure that children have a full PE kit in school each week and may be asked to bring in a pair of trainers for outdoor PE, but they should have a pair of pumps. It may be useful for girls to have a pair of socks in their kits if they usually wear tights.

Our work in geography will help to inspire our story writing in English. We will be learning about hills and mountains – and the difference between them. This will include a study of Mount Everest, looking at how mountains are represented on maps and learning how mountains are formed due to plate tectonics. In learning about mountaineers we will consider the qualities needed to reach a summit, and consider this as a metaphor for overcoming challenges.

In art we are developing our use of different pencil techniques and will study the work Paul Klee. We will use mountains as inspiration for creating some art work based on landscapes.

To start with in French this year we will recap vocabulary previously learned and ensure we are confident with basic instructions and useful questions and answers. We will then move onto learning new vocabulary relating to food, calendars and our bodies. We will develop our speaking and listening skills as well as translating, reading and writing in French. We will learn some rhymes and songs off by heart.

Ukulele lessons this year will be on Wednesday mornings with Mr Rossiter. Children will continue to learn to play different chord sequences, individual notes to play the melody, sing songs and listen to a wide range of musical genres. Once a fortnight ukuleles will be sent home to provide the opportunity for children to practise the skills and songs they are learning.



Weekly Timetable



Mon	Homework due in – Learning Log or Writing Homework and KIRF Records
Tue	
Wed	Ukulele KIRF Challenge Homework set
Thu	Mrs Tait in Class 4 all morning Reading Records checked
Fri	Spelling Test & new spellings set