



# Class 4 Curriculum Newsletter

## March 2016



Welcome back to a very busy Spring term! We have already had a visitor from Christian Aid to support our RE learning about charities, Mrs Reynolds from Boston Spa High School has helped us develop our 'Play in a Day' on Monday, and we have recited our poems off by heart to the class. I'm sure the next few weeks will be just as jam-packed before the Easter holidays! Below is an outline of our curriculum and learning this half term. If you have any queries or are able to support and contribute to our learning, please contact me. As ever, keep updated with Class 4 via our webpage too.

Miss Maddison



### English & Maths

Our theme of **Words, words, words** is a quotation from William Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*. And, in English we are going to be focussing on words – through learning spellings with origins in Latin, French and Greek; consolidating our knowledge of word classes such as prepositions; playing with language to create images in poetry; and learning some Shakespearean quotations too! We will continue to read *Grandpa's Great Escape* and discuss David Walliams' use of vocabulary in his best-selling books.

In maths during this half term, we are going to concentrate on geometry: shape, space, position and direction. We will recap perimeter and learn to calculate the area of rectilinear shapes. We will also practise using coordinates, and begin to use coordinates to draw 2D shapes on a grid of four quadrants. This will also include learning to translate and rotate 2D shapes, revising their properties and developing our understanding of symmetry. We will continue to learn times tables in our weekly KIRFs as well.

### Words, words, words.



This half term, Mrs Tait will be focussing on digestion, teeth and food chains within science. Our learning will be supported by a visit from Mrs Groves to talk about teeth in her role as a dentist. We will learn the specific names and functions of different teeth and parts of the digestive system.



In geography, we will be learning about Europe – a topical subject. We will study a wide range of maps to help develop our understanding and abilities. This will also help us to consider whether Europe is a proper continent, before focussing in on the Mediterranean. To develop our understanding of how human and physical geography are interconnected we will study the city of Bologna in Italy. At the end of this unit of work, we will spend some time creating a Powerpoint presentation to share our learning about Europe. This will combine our geographical skills, use of correct and appropriate vocabulary and terminology, and further our skills of creating presentations in computing.



### 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, including out loud to an adult. 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. Please support children in learning how to spell these words.



For the first few weeks, we will continue to consider how Christian Aid and Islamic Relief make a difference to the world. We will also be reflecting on how we can make a difference and will perhaps look to organise some fundraising in Christian Aid week later this year in May. During Holy Week and Easter Week, we will revisit the events of the Easter story and develop our understanding of Easter as the most significant Christian festival.

Year 4 swimming lessons continue every Tuesday until Tuesday 29 March. Whilst the Year 4s are supervised by Ms Illot and Mrs Stephens, the Year 5s will join with the Year 3s to learn some country dancing and line dancing routines. We will learn particular movements by name and work as a team to perform some traditional dances such as grapevines and cast off. In our other PE session, we will continue to build on our hockey skills, maintain our skipping skills and use the excellent Tagtiv8 resources to combine maths and exercise!

In ukulele with Mr Rossiter we will build on our knowledge of chords, including Dm and G7, to play a wide range of tunes including the Beatles. We are also in the middle of composing our own tune, recording it using TAB and chord boxes. We hope to put some lyrics to this eventually as well! Please encourage your child to practise the chord Changes – even when the ukuleles are out of tune.



En Français, we will develop our vocabulary to name and describe parts of the body. As part of this, we will develop our understanding of le and la.

This half term, our D&T project is to create a moving mouth! We are going to use our science knowledge of electrical circuits to transform a yoghurt pot into a face that will light up! Watch out for some fantastic moving mouths later!

### Weekly Timetable

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

