



Class 4 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2016



Hello and welcome back to another busy half term in the lead up to Christmas. Below is an overview of the work we will be undertaking across the curriculum under our theme of 'Enquiring Minds', alongside Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week, Open Morning and preparing for the KS2 Carol Concert on Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 December. If you have any queries, please contact me – either have a chat in the playground or make an appointment through the school office. If you can help or support our learning in any way please do get in touch!

Mrs Carr



English & Maths

Our work in English will focus on questions. Learning to ask and answer and spell pertinent and appropriate questions. We will read a range of texts and consider the use of questions to inform our understanding of characters and plot, as well as questions as a means to 'hook' the reader in either in non-fiction texts or narrative. Proof-reading to check for missing punctuation and correcting spelling mistakes will continue to be an important part of our English work. Children will also practise starting sentences in different ways (including using fronted adverbials), and adding extra detail using expanded noun phrases and sandwich sentences.



We will continue to develop our times tables knowledge, working on factors and formal methods for multiplication and division. Please see the maths page on the school website for details of these operations and the expectations for Year 4 and Year 5. We will also look at area and perimeter, and revise our knowledge of the names and properties of 2D shape. KIRFs will focus on converting units of measure for Year 5 and learning multiplication and division facts for the 7x table for Year 4.



Homework

Writing homework tasks will be set on alternate Wednesdays and are due in the following Wednesday. During this week, children are expected to spend about 45 minutes on these tasks. The detailed Steps to Success are there to remind children about what makes a good piece of writing and to help you support them.

Children should also be learning and practising mental maths facts to support them in the weekly KIRF challenge. Access to Mathletics is still available but Conker Maths and other online games are also good ways to help children learn their times tables. There are some suggestions of how to help children with maths at home on the school website.

Reading records will be checked every Thursday; children are expected to read every day and as often as possible to an adult. Parents/Carers should sign (and comment if you wish) in reading records as well. Please do discuss the stories as well, asking about who, what, where, when, why, how do you know...

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 or investigating specific spelling rules through 'word study' tasks.

Enquiring Minds

In history, we will be studying the Romans in Britain through an enquiry approach. We will devise some enquiry questions, consider how historians know about the Romans in Britain and carry out some research and evaluation to answer our enquiries. If you have any books on the Romans at home, please bring them in to help support our work.

We will continue to look at Christianity as a global religion in RE, considering St Paul's metaphor of the church as one body. We will also consider the festival of Christmas, particularly focussing on the idea of 'incarnation' – Jesus being both human and divine.



Our science and D&T work will complement each other as we will be learning about electricity with Mrs Tait on Thursday mornings, and designing and constructing a light in D&T. We will become confident in wiring a simple circuit, learn to identify series and parallel circuits and use this knowledge to help analyse torches and design our own lights.

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. This half term we will develop our throwing and catching skills and continue to work on strength and balance in gymnastics.

En Francais, we will develop our confidence in asking and answering questions about food – such as in a café or ordering off a menu – and our families. We will also learn about some French Christmas traditions and a few French Christmassy songs.



Mr Rossiter will continue to teach ukulele on Wednesday mornings and we will continue to develop our skills of: changing chords; playing a tune on the strings; and reading tab notation. It is important that children remember to return ukuleles to school in time for our lessons as otherwise there are not enough for us all to play.

Weekly Timetable

Mon	
Tue	
Wed	Ukulele KIRF Challenge Writing homework set and due in PE
Thu	Mrs Tait in Class 4 all morning Reading Records checked
Fri	Spelling Test & new spellings set PE



The Romans in Britain Vocabulary

EMPIRE	a group of countries controlled by one person or government.
EMPEROR	the leader/ruler of an empire.
INVASION	attacking and entering a country.
AD	Anno Domini = in the year of our Lord
BC	Before Christ
YEAR	the time the earth takes to orbit the sun: 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days.
DECADE	the prefix deca means ten. A decade is a period of 10 years.
CENTURY	the prefix cent means 100. Century means 100 years.
MILLENIUM	a period of a 1000 years.
CENTURION	an officer in the ancient Roman army, originally commanding 80 men.
LEGION	a division of the ancient Roman army with over 5000 legionaries (foot soldiers).
TRIBE	a group of people who live in a community with the same language and culture, usually led by a chief or king
TRADE	buying and selling of goods



Our alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet and many of our words have Latin origins such as *decimal*, *century* and *aquatic*. The spelling *sc* in words such as *science* or *fascinate* comes from Latin, however, the Romans probably pronounced the *s* and the *c* separately.



The Romans had different names for places in Britain, such as: Londinium (London), Eboracum, (York) and Caledonia (Scotland). The people who lived in Britain between 43AD and 410AD were known as the Britons and were parts of tribes such as the Brigantes and the Iceni.

Roman Numerals

Our number system is based on Arabic and uses place value and zero. The Romans, however, used only 7 letters . . .

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
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I = 1 V = 5 X = 10 L = 50 C = 100 D = 500 M = 1000

These letters are placed before or after each other to lower or increase the value of the number. It is a cumulative system; only three of each letter can be used in a row however, eg. III = 3, IV = 4 (one less than 5).

II = 2 IX = 9 XLIII = 43 MCMLXXXVIII = 1988 MMXVI = 2016