



Class 4

The summer has flown by and it's time for your children to begin Year 4! I love teaching Year 4 as there are so many interesting topics to cover and the children really mature throughout the year. Here is a brief overview of what we will be covering this half term.

English

In English this half term, we will be starting the year with some descriptive writing, creating a setting description that contains a wide range of vocabulary and sentence openers. We will also be using the book 'Brilliant' by Roddy Doyle as inspiration for further writing. We will use the story to help us write journalistically, as well as creating a diary entry to recount the events of the plot. We will be using our brand new writing targets to help push forward progress in writing.

In addition to this, we will be looking in depth at the Year 4 grammar objectives.

Maths

In maths, we will be covering a range of topics, starting with looking at place value and becoming accustomed with numbers up to 7 digits. We will then move on to using this knowledge of place value to consolidate our columnar methods of addition and subtraction. Year 4 is a very important year for times tables, with children expected to know all of them up to 12 X 12 by the end of the year. Again, IXL is very useful for practising the Year 4 skills.

Topic

In history, we will look at Ancient Egypt, spending a lot of time discovering how they lived their daily lives. We will also look at the Egyptian Gods and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. At the end of the half term, in October, we will be having an Ancient Egyptian day! We will be dressing up for this day.

Science and Computing

In science, we will be looking at teeth and how different teeth have different jobs. We will then move on to look at the human digestive system.

In computing, we will use the Purple Mash scheme to advance our understanding of coding. We will also cover e-safety.

PHSE and RE

During this half term in RE, we are going to be looking at the different faiths that make up the community we live in.

In PSHE we will be discovering the class rules, and understanding why we have rules in society.

PE

We will be going swimming on a Friday afternoon throughout this year. We will also be furthering our gymnastic skills on a Tuesday afternoon. Your child will need a **fully-labelled** PE kit, including correct footwear, in school for these days in order to participate. As per the school policy, long hair must be tied up and earrings removed or taped up during PE.

Important Dates this half term:

Parents' Evening – Monday 22nd October and Tuesday 23rd October

Ancient Egyptian day – W/C Mon 15th October

Break up for Half Term – Fri 26th October



Ways to help your child in Year 4:

As Year 4 is an important year for learning all times tables up to 12 X 12, it would be great if you could test your child as often as you can. We will be completing our Times Table Rockstars quiz twice a week and speed tables once a week. Also, on the Year 4 section of IXL there is a whole section devoted to practising the multiplication and division facts. Mr. Clayton has recently recommended the free app (with no adverts!) called SuperFastMathLite which has a game where children can practise their times tables at speed.

Also, ask your child what grammar rule they are learning each week. This year they need to be able to identify, define and give examples of conjunctions, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, determiners and prepositions. In addition to this, every Friday I will give them a list of spellings to learn, which will be subsequently tested on the following Friday. A great way to help them learn their spellings is by getting them to write them out in creative ways. Perhaps they want to copy them in bubble writing? Challenge them to think of a creative way to copy out their spellings. It is important that children still read with an adult as often as possible. In class, they will read with the teacher and a supporting adult on a rotating basis. If you could also read with them at home as often as you can, this will greatly help their comprehension skills as well as helping them widen their vocabulary for writing. If you could write in their planner when they have read at home, this will help me track this.

In Year 4, children should be spending **approximately 90 minutes on homework a week**. I advise 40 minutes on IXL maths, 40 minutes on IXL English and 10 minutes on learning their spellings. The IXL homework is designed to complement and consolidate the work we have looked at in Maths and English that week. If they are spending more than 40 minutes on a skill, it may mean they are struggling with the concept. If this is the case, it will flag up on my IXL page so I can provide them with additional help.

Finally, I will communicate their IXL homework and spellings via their planner, so please ensure it is brought to school every day. In addition, I will highlight directly on IXL which skills I would like them to practise.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Mr. Kershaw