



## **Class 4**

We had a fantastic first half term in Class 4, this class have shown just how caring, hard-working and committed they are and I've loved teaching them so far. The weeks running up to Christmas are always very busy and we have lots to cover.

### **English**

This half term, we are looking at the book *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen. We will be retelling the story with our own added details after we have looked in detail at the characters, their motives and making speculations about what has actually happened to the missing hat! The children will hopefully enjoy becoming detectives to work out exactly what happened.

In GPS, we will be spending time looking at the (often confusing) apostrophe for plural possession as well as giving reasons *why* certain grammar and punctuation rules occur.

### **Maths**

After spending last half term consolidating our knowledge of the four operations and place value, this half term we will be tackling fractions. We will spend a couple of weeks doing this, so any issues the children may have with fractions, please feel free to speak to me. I know they can cause confusion! We will also be looking at converting units of measure and calculating durations of time.

### **Topic and DT**

I am very excited about our topic on natural disasters this half term. Being a keen geographer myself, I can't wait to show the children how natural disasters occur. We will be looking at earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and tornados to name a few!

In DT, later in the year, we will be designing and creating our own sweets. It would be great if I could have a few parent helpers for this.

### **Science and Computing**

In science, we will be learning about sound. How is sound made? How can we affect the volume and pitch of sound? We will be connecting this to the music curriculum. In computing, we will be looking at how to use spreadsheets as well as learning how technology helps inform journalism.

### **PHSE and RE**

During this half term in RE, we will be continuing to look at the different faiths that make up the community we live in.

In PSHE, we will be discussing how to keep safe in today's world as well as looking at bullying and how to prevent it.

### **PE**

We will be going swimming on a Friday afternoon throughout this year. The sports coach will be in to teach the class netball on Wednesday mornings.

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:**

Sweet making – Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Year 3/4 Christmas performance – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Break up for Christmas – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> December



## 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**