



Year 4 – Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an Exciting Term of Learning!

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Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely break and are ready for an exciting term of learning in Year 4. We have lots of fascinating topics, practical activities and opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge, skills and independence.

This term, we are travelling back in time, exploring volcanoes and mountains, becoming scientists, mathematicians, authors, chefs and even computer experts! Here is a little more information about what your child will be learning.

English – Escape from Pompeii

Our English learning this term will be inspired by the exciting book *Escape from Pompeii*. We will be stepping back in time to AD 79 and imagining what life was like in the Roman city of Pompeii before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The children will explore the sights, sounds, smells and atmosphere of the city before disaster strikes!

Setting Descriptions

The children will become authors and learn how to create vivid settings using powerful vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, similes and descriptive language. They will think carefully about how they can make their reader feel as though they are actually there.

Diary Writing

We will then imagine that we are living through the eruption ourselves! The children will write diary entries describing their thoughts, feelings and experiences as the volcano erupts. They will learn how to write in the first person and include emotions, details and reflections.

Information Texts – Volcanoes

Our final piece of writing will be an informative text all about volcanoes. We will learn how to organise information clearly, use technical vocabulary and explain fascinating facts in a way that teaches the reader. There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to read, discuss, plan, draft, edit and improve their writing.

Maths – Place Value, Addition and Subtraction

In Maths, we will begin by developing our understanding of place value. We will explore thousands, hundreds, tens and ones and learn how the position of a digit affects its value.

The children will practise reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers and representing them in different ways.

We will then move on to addition and subtraction, developing efficient written methods as well as mental calculation strategies. We will tackle increasingly challenging problems, including those involving exchanging and more than one step.

A big focus will be on problem solving and explaining our mathematical thinking. We want children to become confident mathematicians who can explain how and why they reached an answer, rather than simply giving the answer.

Science – The Human Digestive System

Get ready for a journey through the human body!

This term, we will investigate the human digestive system and discover what happens to food after we eat it.

The children will learn about the different organs involved, including the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine and rectum, and explore the important job each one does.

We will investigate questions such as:

- What happens to our food when we chew it?
- Why do we need stomach acid? Etc...

Topic – Mountains and Volcanoes

This term's Topic learning is going to be an adventure!

We will explore some of the world's most spectacular mountains and volcanoes, finding out how and where they are formed and why they can be found in particular parts of the world.

The children will investigate:

- How mountains are formed
- How volcanoes are formed
- The structure of the Earth
- Why volcanoes erupt
- Where famous mountains and volcanoes are located
- The impact that volcanic eruptions can have on people and the environment

We will also develop our geographical skills by using maps, atlases, diagrams and geographical vocabulary.

Our English work will link beautifully with this topic, allowing the children to become experts on volcanoes while also developing their writing skills.

PE – Football and Handball

It's time to get active!

Thursday – Handball

The children will develop their throwing, catching, passing, movement and teamwork skills. They will learn how to work effectively as part of a team and begin to apply skills and tactics during games.

Friday – Football

We will develop key football skills including dribbling, passing, receiving, shooting and defending.

Children will also learn about positioning, teamwork and making decisions during a game.

Please remember to ensure children have their PE kits in school and suitable footwear for PE days.

DT – Cooking and Nutrition

This term we are heading into the kitchen!

Our Design and Technology learning will focus on cooking and nutrition, with a particular focus on bread making.

The children will explore different types of bread and learn about ingredients, measurements, mixing and kneading. They will investigate how ingredients work together and how dough changes during the baking process.

Eventually, the children will have the opportunity to design and make their own bread product, thinking carefully about ingredients, taste, texture and appearance.

We may even have some very enthusiastic young bakers coming home with ideas for what they would like to make next!

Computing – Hardware, Software and Effective Searching

Our Computing learning will help children understand what is actually happening behind the screens we use every day.

We will begin by unpacking hardware and software and learning the difference between the two.

The children will investigate:

- What is hardware?
- What is software?
- What different computer components do
- How different parts of a computer work together

We will also learn about effective searching. Children will develop their ability to search for information online using appropriate keywords and learn how to find useful and relevant information.

We will also discuss the importance of thinking carefully about the information we find online.

PSHE – All About Me and Right from Wrong

Our PSHE learning will give children opportunities to think about themselves, their relationships and the choices they make.

We will explore what makes each of us unique, including our strengths, qualities, interests and things we are proud of.

We will also think about right and wrong, discussing rules, responsibilities, choices and consequences. Children will consider different situations and learn that sometimes making the right choice requires us to stop, think and consider how our actions may affect others.

We will encourage the children to be kind, respectful, responsible and confident members of our school community.

RE – Creation

Our RE question this term is:

“What do Christians learn from the Creation story?”

We will explore the Christian Creation story from Genesis and think about what Christians believe it teaches them about God, the world and humanity.

The children will consider ideas such as caring for the world, responsibility, gratitude and the importance of looking after creation.

We will encourage children to ask questions, share their own ideas respectfully and understand that people may interpret stories and beliefs in different ways.

Music – Body and Tuned Percussion

It's time to make some noise!

Our Music learning will focus on body percussion and tuned percussion.

The children will explore how music can be created using their bodies through clapping, stamping, tapping and other rhythmic sounds. They will develop their understanding of rhythm, pulse and Beat. We will then transfer these skills to tuned percussion instruments, exploring pitch, rhythm and Melody. The children will have opportunities to compose, perform and work collaboratively as part of an ensemble.

Spelling

Spellings will be sent home every Monday.

We encourage children to practise their spellings regularly throughout the week rather than trying to learn them all in one go!

A few minutes of practice each day can make a big difference. Children could practise by:

- Writing each word in a sentence
- Look, cover, write, check
- Rainbow writing
- Writing words in alphabetical order
- Testing a family member
- Finding interesting or unusual words within their spellings

Please encourage children to think about patterns and rules in their spellings rather than simply memorising the words.

How Can You Help At Home?

Reading regularly at home will also continue to be incredibly important. Encourage children to read a range of books and discuss what they have read.

Learn the weekly spellings.

Practise, practise and practise Times Tables!

If there are any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours faithfully,

Mr O