

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Class 4,

Welcome back after our summer break. Here is our first newsletter to fill you in on how we do things in Class 4. Our TAs remain the same, Mrs. Sizemore, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Williamson. Each spends a different amount of time in our room supporting children in class and taking intervention groups for the children that need extra support. Mrs. Yates will now take the class on a Thursday morning.

## **Activities and Class Topics**

### **Literacy**

Our first Literacy topic will be based on Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" as a fantasy story. Children will study plot lines through story maps and learn to create their own, developing characters and settings on a theme. They use dialogue in writing an effective and engaging story. Grammar includes looking at adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, and the use of paragraphs. We will also be learning about the author, our new children's laureate, and her other works.

### **Mathematics**

For maths we will be planning from the new mathematics curriculum and the children will develop understanding and skills in place value; mental calculation and paper and pencil procedures for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion, data handling and reasoning about shapes and measures.

We will be working hard on our times tables throughout the year and it is really helpful if children practise these at home.

### **Science**

In our first topic this term the children will describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans, identify the different types of teeth in humans and animals and their simple functions. Then we will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. We are hoping to visit Chester Zoo to consolidate our learning.

### **History and Geography**

Our first theme will be on the geography of the UK, where we will learn about the structure of the countries and counties. We will then branch off and do our own research on individual areas. The children will have the chance to do their own research and look at physical and human geography and learn to use atlases for reference.

Our second theme will be a topic on World War 2. We will look at it from the child's perspective and think about the lives of those who stayed at home, in particular we will be thinking about evacuation. A trip is in the planning, details to follow soon.

### **I.T.**

We will be focussing on coding and word processing.

### **DT**

In DT we will be looking at bridges, starting with some in the UK and then further afield. We will look at materials and structures and try to create strong structures from different materials.

### **Art**

Most of our art work this term will be centred on our World War 2 theme.

### **PE**

Your child will have PE on **Mondays** and **Thursdays** and needs to have a kit in school on these days; however it would be useful for your child to have a PE kit on their peg all week as sessions can vary. With the weather getting cooler we would also recommend a sweatshirt and joggers or track suit to be available in their PE bag. Our first PE lessons will be looking at ball tag rugby and gymnastics.

### **Reading**

Your child will either be on the school's reading scheme or reading books from our class library. Every day we have a quiet reading time and once a week each child will take part in

a group reading or writing session to develop their reading and writing skills and discuss texts. Where possible, children may also have individual reading sessions with other adults helping in the class. ALL children are encouraged to read daily at home and it would be helpful if parents can mark their reading records daily.

### **RE**

In RE lessons we will be looking at the Beatitudes and the Christian qualities of forgiveness, love, respect, tolerance and faith.

### **Homework**

Each week your child should receive 3 pieces of homework as follows: maths workbooks, a literacy or topic based piece and a spelling pattern to learn. Spellings will be tested on **Fridays**. Maths and Literacy homework will be sent home on **Thursdays** and is due back on **Tuesdays**. If your child fails to bring in their homework on the allotted day, they will be given one day's grace but if it is not handed in on the following day, they will be expected to do the homework at playtime. Each child has been given a homework diary this year and we ask you to check and sign it each week to let us know that the homework has been done.

### **Extra Information**

**Bags** We ask the children to bring PE kit in a pump bag, as mentioned, and it is crucial that this bag is a **drawstring bag** as we will be keeping these bags in storage boxes. This is an attempt to ease the congestion in our cloakroom area, which is so small. **Please do not send your child to school with a bulky backpack as they take up too much room and invariably end up on the floor, causing a hazard.** Everything that your child needs on a daily basis will fit into a school book bag but on days where your child has an after-school club eg. WFA , they may bring a backpack and it can be stored above their peg.

**Water** We encourage the children to drink water during the day and therefore encourage them to bring in a water bottle. **Please ensure your child's bottle is labelled** and please encourage them to bring the bottle home daily for washing! We will do our best to send all bottles home on Fridays.

**Pencil cases** Children are allowed to bring a pencil case from home, though this is not a necessity. Please limit the size of pencil case, they must be able to tuck into your child's drawer each night, big pencil cases end up littering the classroom and will be sent home. Please explain to your child that they must take responsibility for their own pencil case and contents.

We hope this information is helpful but do feel free to share any concerns or worries you may have regarding your child.

Kind regards  
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