

Year Four Class Letter Spring Term 2015

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had an enjoyable, magical and relaxing Christmas. As you are all aware Mr Clelland has been based with Y4 during the Autumn Term. For the first part of this term, he is on placement at another school but will be back to join us after the half term holiday. I have provided a breakdown of the new curriculum for the Spring Term.

English

The topics we will cover throughout the term include; Information texts, Stories with Issues/Dilemmas, Explanation texts and Poetry. The class reader for this term is 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo, if your child has a copy of 'The Butterfly lion' please send it into school clearly labelled for our class reader sessions.

Maths

We will continue to cover the topics of counting, partitioning and calculating; securing number facts and understanding shape; handling data and measuring; and problem solving. During these units we will be building on prior knowledge learnt in the Autumn Term and using and applying these skills in everyday contexts.

Science

In science lessons we will be learning about electricity, thinking about safety and conductors and insulators. This topic is an excellent way for the children to be aware of circuit symbols and how different components of a circuit can work. During the second half of this term we will be learning about living things and their habitats. We will be learning about habitats based in the school grounds and then we will expand our knowledge and think about habitats within the local area. The children will be carrying out a number of scientific investigations throughout the term linked to our topics.

ICT

Children will be learning how to use ICT to present their own written work about themselves using PowerPoint. This will give them in-depth knowledge about what we need to make a PowerPoint successful and appealing. We will also be learning about plagiarism and the internet in the first half term. In the second half of the term children will be learning how to use data effectively on the computer- this will link to our Maths and data handling unit of work. Finally we will be using a programme called Scratch and we will be processing a character to complete different actions and sequences.

Geography

We will be studying a topic in Geography in the second half term linked to Geology and Europe. This will give the children an opportunity to learn about Mountainous areas and volcanoes and natural disasters within Europe and its surrounding area.

History

History will be taught in the first half of the term. We will be learning all about The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain and will develop our sense of chronology and our interpretation and enquiry skills. I know all the children are excited about their Roman projects and a few have already started!

Music

We are incredibly lucky to continue to benefit having the expertise of Mr Rimmer from Baines High School throughout the year to teach us how to play the ukulele. Ukulele lessons will help children learn to read pentatonic scales and explore a range of singing games. Ukulele lessons will take place on a Wednesday. I can see a lot of children have received a ukulele as a present for Christmas- please make sure they use these during ukulele sessions and if you

have a digital tuner at home it will be helpful to tune them every time they are played at home. Also we are now practising for the Celebration of Music concert that will be held at the Opera house in Blackpool during March. More information will be given out nearer the time.

RE

In the first half term children will be learning about the role of the Church in the Christian religion and in the second half term there will be a focus on Jesus and the sacrifices he made. During this half term we will be visiting a local church to learn how Christians celebrate the Eucharist.

Art

Children will be learning about textiles, how they can be made, used in a creative and imaginary way. This will link to a specific topic we are covering and will be completed during the second half of the Spring term.

DT

The children will learn how different structures are made and designed and how they are able to support certain weight. We will look at famous structures and the material they were made from, then we are going to link our DT work to our History and design and produce a structures of their own.

PE

PE usually takes place on Wednesday and Thursday for the first half term. We will be learning through both dance and outdoor adventure team games this term. Please make sure your child has a **full PE kit in school everyday**. They must have suitable footwear to take part in PE lessons (pumps are acceptable, trainers are ideal). As the weather is cold; during our outdoor PE lessons the children are able to wear a tracksuit to keep them warmer outside.

PSHE

PSHE lessons will take two themes; 'Me, my Family and Friends' and 'Me, my Community and my Environment'. These topics will give the children the chance to share their thoughts and feelings with their class. This subject is also taught everyday throughout the week as issues and scenarios are always brought up during most school days.

French

One lesson a week we will share our wonderful French skills, we will cover the topic of 'Les fetes' the children will learn about fairs, carnivals and celebrations. In the second half term we will be learning French through a unit called 'Ou vas-tu?' the children will learn how to compare aspects of everyday life with their own and learn about different ways of travelling to certain countries.

Homework and Spellings

I will continue to send spellings on Fridays to be learnt by Wednesday and these will then be tested in a variety of ways throughout the week. Homework is still sent out on a Friday and needs to be handed in no later than the following Wednesday.

Homework is there to consolidate classwork and is therefore an essential ingredient in your child's progress. I appreciate any amount of homework that is completed is showing your child/children have made an effort at home.

Thank you again for your support. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to myself. It is a pleasure teaching your children and I hope they are enjoying it as much as I am! It is lovely to see how your children have changed in so many ways since they were in Key Stage One many moons ago!

Miss Snape.