**Year 4 Autumn Term Newsletter**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Year 4 – it will be a busy year for the children, with lots of exciting learning and activities planned! The children are settling quickly into the hustle and bustle of school life, and it’s a pleasure to start getting to know them better.

We will be holding a **Meet the Teacher** event on **Monday 9th September** at 3.30-4.00pm and again at 4.00-4.30pm (to allow parents to attend more than one meeting if they have siblings in school). I look forward to seeing you there.



English

Much of our reading and writing this term will be based around our theme of ‘Invaders’, learning about the invasions of the Romans and the Vikings and how Britain changed as a result. As part of this, we will be writing diary entries, adverts, poetry, persuasive speeches, and a short story. I am already so impressed with the children’s ideas, and I look forward to sharing their work. Reading and vocabulary are at the centre of all children’s learning, and we will continue to keep this at the heart of our whole curriculum, sharing and exploring a wide range of texts, including ‘Oliver and the Seawigs’, ‘The Village That Vanished’ and ‘The Firebird’.

Maths

Our focus this term will be on place value of numbers up to 10,000 introducing decimals and negative numbers, and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). It is vital for the children in Year 4 to be confident in number, especially in knowing their times tables up to 12 x 12 – please encourage your child to be practising these regularly at home. These are key to so many areas of more complex Maths, especially as we work more on formal written methods and fractions.

Reading

Reading records need to be completed at least three times weekly, and reading books and reading records need to be brought into school every day as reading is a vital part of our school day. Reading books will be sent home next week, as well as a ‘Reading for Pleasure’ book from our class library – these are selected independently by the children, and are not necessarily matched to their current reading ability, but to promote a love of books. Please take the time to read with your child as often as possible, and focus on their understanding on the text by asking questions (see the middle pages inside their reading record for some useful hints and tips). By Year 4, most children can confidently read aloud, and decipher new vocabulary, so the key to progress is their comprehension (understanding). To encourage greater independence in Year 4, children are encouraged to review their own reading too by rating themselves out of 10 in their reading record!

Foundation Subjects

Here is a brief overview of our intended learning across all curriculum subjects this term – we know all children have different interests and talents, and there’s something here for everybody!

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| Art | Painting: colour and brushstrokes The life and work of Vincent Van Gogh  |
| Computing | The InternetCreating repeating patterns (programming) |
| Design Technology | Textiles: designing and sewing their own pencil case |
| French | Asking and answering questions about themselvesFollowing simple commandsNumbers, colours, days of the week, months of the year |
| Geography | The water cycle |
| Music | What does music teach us about our community?Exploring different musical genres from the blues to EDM |
| PE | SwimmingDanceFitness |
| PSHE | Positive relationshipsSticky Questions – exploring questions through debate and using verbal reasoning (there are no right or wrong answers!) |
| RE | Judaism – what do Jewish people believe about God? |
| Science | Animals including humans (focusing on food, nutrition and digestion)States of Matter |

PE

Swimming lessons begin on Monday 9th September and will run throughout the Autumn term; this block of lessons will allow children to make some really great progress in this life-saving skill! Please remember that we leave school at 8.45am for swimming to get there on time! Our PE lessons will usually take place on Fridays, but please send PE kits in to school with your child on a Monday, and these will be sent home each Friday, in case of any timetabling changes. PE kit should consist of: tracksuit bottoms/shorts, trainers and a change of top (preferably a school t-shirt in house colours), as well as a sweatshirt for the outdoors.

Uniform

Children should all come to school wearing: black or grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore; a white polo shirt; a blue cardigan/sweatshirt; and plain black shoes. It has been great to see the children return to school looking so smart, but if there are any difficulties with providing uniform, please do let us know as we can support with this.

Home Learning

In addition to reading, homework will be set online on ‘EdShed’; your child’s login details can be found in their reading record. This will be set on a Monday, to be completed by Friday.

Other homework tasks and projects may be set over the term linked to our current areas of learning.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us, make an appointment, or contact me via email: e.bell300@kingstreet.durham.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Bell, Mrs Bott & Miss Navin