



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back Year 4! It's been lovely to see all of the children back and ready to learn, we have so many exciting things planned for this term!

### **English**

This term the children will be looking at Newspapers, Persuasive Writing and Novels as a Theme. The children will also be reading, discussing and writing a new poem every week!

A Guided Reading carousel will be taking place daily, this means that over the week your children will cover comprehension, spelling and dictionary skills while also discussing and reading through a selection of texts with myself and Mrs Watts. Our class books this term are *The Accidental Prime Minister* by Tom McLaughlin and *The Boy in the Back of the Classroom* by Onjali Q Rauf.

### **Maths**

We will be continuing along with the Power Maths scheme. The children built a solid foundation over Autumn that we can now use to move into some of our more complex topics. We will begin by following up our Multiplication and Division work with some problem solving, tackling those two step problems!

We'll then move onto our Shapes and Measures topic, counting and comparing the area of shapes. Following this the children will begin to look at finding, adding and subtracting fractions alongside equivalency. This will tie-in to our Decimals work as we examine tenths and hundredths. As home learning we will be keeping the expectation that the children either present written, practiced times tables or are active on TTRockstars, we will also be continuing with our weekly times table tests the dates for which are as follows:

7x (19/01)

8x (26/01)

9x (02/02)

12x (09/02)

### **Religious Education (RE)**

This half-term we'll be exploring Jesus as the Son of God. This will include a lot of discussion of authority and faith and what those words mean to us. We'll be examining stories from the Bible such as the 'Feeding of the 5000' and accounts of Jesus walking on water.

Following that we'll be discussing the themes of trust and betrayal throughout our Easter unit. We'll also be exploring various accounts of events that happened through the Easter Story.

### **Science**

Some very exciting topics for Science this term! We'll begin by exploring Sound. The children will learn all about how sound travels, what happens when it hits our ears and how things like volume and pitch have an effect on how it moves. We'll also be looking into the lives of Gerhard Sessler and James West, two researchers who helped to pave the way for the modern microphones!

After the half-term we'll move on to looking at Living Things and their Habitats. We'll be discussing how and why we group living things. Using simple classification keys to name living things in our environment and discussing how some environments can change alongside the risk this can pose to the animals living there. Through this we'll also be looking into Jane Goodall, an accomplished biologist and conservationist.

### **Computing**

The children will be continuing with their Coding topic, building upon the skills we covered in our first term and then applying this when we continue over to their Animation unit,

## **PE**

Our first topic this term will cover Team Work and Problem Solving. Children will work together, showing encouragement and support to their teammates, to complete a series of challenges. We'll be discussing how we can utilise individual strengths to help each other succeed.

Following this we'll begin our Invasion Games topic, Basketball. The children will learn how to dribble, pass and control a ball while using tactics to outwit their opponents.

## **History**

This term we shift our focus from the Vikings onto the Normans! The children will be learning all about the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings as well as the events following the crowning of William the Conqueror.

## **Geography**

Year 4 will begin learning about Towns and Cities. We'll be researching capital cities around the world and discussing how and why people have settled there.

## **Art/Design Technology**

Linking into our Normans topic, the children will be exploring their painting skills by making their own mini Bayeux Tapestries. We'll also be examining the significance of the Bayeux Tapestry as a piece of art and discussing techniques and colours that they could use when creating their own.

In Design Technology we'll be utilising our sewing and textiles skills to design, create and evaluate Norman Purses.

## **Music**

The children will begin by examining Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics through the theme of Rivers. Learning to listen to changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics and relate it to something tangible and familiar. The pupils will represent different stages of the river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance.

Following this we will move on to Haiku, Music and Performance. This Japanese inspired topic looks at the springtime festival of Hanami, which celebrates the fleeting beauty of spring flowers. Children will use descriptive vocabulary to create a Haiku, put it to music and finally add percussion sound effects to bring all elements together before a final, group performance.

## **PSHE**

Our Heartsmart PSHE topics for the term are 'Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy' and 'Don't Rub it in, Rub it Out!'. These will examine how we can be aware of ourselves and the people around us, discussing how we can use tablets and mobile phones responsibly. We'll also discuss the importance of forgiveness and how we can bounce back from mistakes.

**Kind regards,**

**Mr Graham and Miss Wardman**