

Year 4 Newsletter

October 2020

Welcome back to another school year 😊

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to teach all of you again.

Although a lot of things are different this year, our aim is to ensure our learning is still active, engaging and fun. We have started the year, as always, with a large focus on our school STARFISH values. It has filled us with joy to see how much these values mean to Year 4 and how so many of them have used these to help them through the last few months. STARFISH is for life.

Maths

As a school, we are continuing to use the Maths No Problem scheme of work. We have started our learning in Year 3 Book B, to ensure we cover any areas missed in the summer term. Every morning, we will be completing calculation questions, featuring the four operations. In addition, due to the timetable test, completed at the end of Year 4, we also have dedicated time each day to focus on our speed and accuracy in multiplication and division.

Reading

In Year 4, we are lucky to once again have access to Accelerated Reader. This allows us to take comprehension quizzes on books we have read. As a school, we are changing how reading is taught, and I look forward to sharing this with you in the next newsletter.

Writing

Throughout the year we will be focussing on different genres to build our skills in a range of different areas. We have daily taught spelling sessions where we look at spelling patterns, rules and useful ways to help us remember them.

Art and Design

For Art and Design, we enjoy weekly skills sessions to help us build more confidence within different mediums of art. Some weeks we will also take part in debates and discussions about Art in society.

Design Technology

During our afternoon subject lesson, we complete thinking skills, debates and discussions to solve problems, share our opinions and select equipment effectively.

Computing

Our Computing learning each week focusses on E-Safety. In October, we will be discussing sharing information online, deciding what we think is personal information and monitoring safe use of all equipment. Lessons to help us stay safe in the future.



Geography

This half term we are learning different skills to prepare us for our Geography Deep Dive Learning in the Spring Term. We will be focussing on Northern Ireland as a country within the U.K., followed by comparing and contrasting with the Peak District, Tuscany and Canada.

Modern Foreign Languages

For French, we follow the Rising Stars Scheme of work. This half term we are learning which countries other than France speak French. We are also practising our numbers to 30 and days of the week as a class focus.

Science

Our first Science topic this year is The Digestive System.

This includes learning about:

- Where our food goes
- What happens to it at each stage
- What role each organ has in digesting the food we eat.

We have already discovered how our food is broken down using the 'tights experiment'. Very exciting!

Our first Deep Dive Learning theme for after half term is the Dark Ages. We will be focussing on the lives of the Vikings, discovering when and where they lived, what evidence we have from them today and comparing this time period with previous year group studies.

Google Classroom

As part of a DfE incentive scheme, we were lucky enough to receive a grant to support our setting up of Google Classroom. We worked very hard to complete this in the summer term. As a staff team, we are currently developing our skills on using this amazing tool. All of the planning for each year group is put on the classroom to easily share with others and access from any digital device. Later this year, logins will also be shared with parents and children to further support all home learning.

Please remember to keep everyone safe, we are now using email as our main method of contact. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to email either myself or the school office.

Our P.E. sessions are currently every other Friday. Please come to school in your kit (black and white). Jogging bottoms and jumpers/hoody's are best to keep warm.

