

Class 4 Newsletter – Autumn 2024

Welcome back after the summer break, and a particularly warm welcome to Y5! Everybody is settling back to routines really well, and it's been lovely to hear about everyone's summer holidays.

Mrs Walmsley and I are the class teachers – Mrs Walmsley works Tuesdays and Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Waugh is the Teaching Assistant in Class 4.

PE days are Mondays and Tuesdays.

School Visit: Thursday 14th November – Ripon Workhouse Museum (more details to follow)



Maths

We're beginning the new academic year by looking at decimals – tenths, hundredths and thousandths, followed by Money, Negative Numbers, and Multiplication and Division. Quick recall of number bonds and multiplication facts is essential so please do fire questions at your children from time to time!



English

Our Reading work (Vipers) is focused on the book 'Street Child' which follows the life of Jim Jarvis in the Victorian era. Some of our writing will be focused around this book. We will also be reading Queen of the Falls which will act as a stimulus for a lot of our writing too; our main focus will be writing diary entries. We focus on a new spelling theme each week and the children are encouraged to find words which match the theme throughout the week. There is no formal spelling test each week but instead, ongoing assessment and testing of new vocabulary. Our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling work will cover the following: Noun Phrases, Modal verbs and Subjunctive Mood, Suffixes - Nouns and Adjectives to Verbs, Relative Clauses and Commas.

Science

Our topic this term is Properties of Everyday Materials where we will be comparing and grouping together everyday materials on the basis of their properties; using knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating; explaining that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda.

History

Our focus is The Victorians and why this period of history was a time of significant change for Britain. We'll compare the lives of the rich and poor, and focus on the lives of children and the Laws passed to ensure greater protection for them. We begin this topic by looking at key inventions during this period.

Geography

Our topic is: Would you like to live in the desert? We'll be learning about biomes, and the children will map deserts, exploring their physical characteristics and how humans have adapted to living there.



RE

Our themes this term are: 'What would Jesus do? Can we live by the values of Jesus in the twenty-first century?' and 'What do religions say to us when life gets hard?'



Art and DT

In DT, we are focusing on Structure: we will be designing a playground featuring a variety of different structures, giving careful consideration to how the structures will be used, considering effective and ineffective designs.

In Art we are Investigating self-portraits by a range of artists; children will use photographs of themselves as a starting point for developing their own unique self-portraits in mixed-media.

Computing

Mr Moss will teach these sessions. The focus in the first half term will be online safety. Mr Moss will explore how to be safe online in detail when using tablets, phones or computers.

PSHE

We will be covering the following units this term: **Family and relationships:** Respect, Respectful relationships, Challenging stereotypes, resolving conflict and Change and loss, and **Health and wellbeing:** Taking responsibility for my health, and The impact of technology on health

French

In French we will be learning adjectives to describe appearance and personality, creating simple sentences using adjectival agreement. We will also use family & relations vocabulary, possessive adjectives and express likes & dislikes

Music

We are looking at dynamics, pitch and texture, using Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn. We will be appraising his work and developing improvisation and composition skills.

PE

We will be focusing on football with Mrs Cass from Total Sports (Mondays) and Tag Rugby with Mrs Walmsley (Tuesdays)

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

Daily reading is essential to support your child to build up their reading stamina. We read for a sustained period in class every day, talking about new vocabulary, and plot lines – please try to encourage reading time at home too.

Please support your child in becoming more **independent** in preparation for secondary school – packing their bags the evening before, making sure their uniform is ready or helping to make packed lunches.

Homework will be set each **Friday** and is due the following **Friday**. This will sometimes be maths, English or topic work. Please ensure there is somewhere quiet and free from distractions for your child to work. Support from yourselves can take many forms – sit alongside them if this is needed; encourage independent work first and then support if there are any difficulties or leave to complete entirely independently.

This will begin next week.

As always, please do get in touch via email or telephone and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

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