

Longshaw Primary Academy
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11th January 2019

YEAR 4
CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER & INFORMATION FOR THE SPRING TERM

Happy New Year! We hope that you all enjoyed a very peaceful and restful break. The Year 4 staff team are looking forward to another productive term with the children.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English - our work will be linked to our Anglo-Saxon topic. We will be writing various writing genres: non-chronological reports, recounts and historical narratives, kenning poetry, persuasive writing and journalistic report writing.

Maths - we will be refining our methods of mental and written addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also learn to use measures of area and time, followed by consolidation of fractions and decimals knowledge. Following this we will be refining our methods of problem solving that involves converting between different units of measurement.

Science - we will be learning about states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how materials change from one state to another. We will also be learning about sound - how we hear and how to manipulate sounds (pitch, volume, etc).

Topic (history/geography) - Our topic is Anglo-Saxons and English history between when the Romans left up until 1066 and the Norman invasion. We will discover where settlers came from and about their way of life. We will be developing skills of using maps and atlases and making a comparison of Britain and the settlers' homeland.

Art and D&T - in the first part of the term we will be designing Anglo-Saxon brooches and linking this to maths and rotational symmetry. In design and technology, we will be designing and creating (cooking) soups for Anglo-Saxon people.

Music - our music will initially immerse the children in the Grime, Classical, Bhangra, Tango, Latin Fusion musical styles with the children composing their own song to fit a given style and theme. The next unit of work will expose the

children to Gospel in its historical context and give the children a chance to analyse performances.

PE - the children will be undertaking gymnastics instruction and also playing invasion games and exploring the skills of maintaining possession, marking and tackling.

RE - across the term we will be studying aspects of Judaism and Sikhism.

Computing - this term's units of work are about writing for different audiences, which involves exploring how use of font size and style affects the impact of a text. After this, we will be exploring spreadsheets - using formulae, creating graphs and using them to create a budget.

Spanish - the themes will be: El carnaval de los animales (the carnival of the animals) and En la casa "Dentro" (At home "indoors")

ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM:

ANTICIPATED TRIPS AND VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

We hope to arrange a visit to a synagogue to support our learning in RE and we also plan to have a Viking/Anglo-Saxon day in school, supported by a real life Viking! Details will be released about these events as soon as they have been organised.

P.E.

Regular weekly PE lessons will be on **Tuesdays**, although other sessions may be included from time to time. Please ensure that your child has a P.E kit in school every day of the week. PE kits should include a pair of black shorts and red T-shirt as well as a pair of plimsolls/trainers.

Earrings must be removed before any PE lesson, due to the danger or injury that they pose. Placing tape over the earrings will not negate the risks. The responsibility for looking after the earrings will always be with the child.

The PE kit that is expected:

- black shorts
- red T-shirt
- plimsolls for indoor PE
- trainers for outdoor P.E
- black/navy jogging bottoms for outdoor PE in colder weather.

SWIMMING

Swimming is continuing on a Monday, 14th January.

HOMEWORK

Homework will now be given out on a Friday and will now be due back on the following Wednesday. The homework we set will always reflect what the cohort needs to improve or consolidate - and as far as possible we will mark the work with the children.

The children should be able to independently undertake the tasks that we set, though adult support and discussion is always beneficial. If the children should struggle with any part of it, they are welcome to seek help from any member of the Year 4 team.

Homework from this term will be strictly monitored and any that is missing or fails to meet our expectations will be completed in the children's own time at school. The children have been told very clearly that they have sole responsibility for their homework and its safe return to school. The first piece of homework for the term will be issued next Friday, 18th January.

Our regular homework items:

- There will be an ongoing push to improve the children's mental working in maths with rapid recall of addition and multiplication facts. The children's efforts towards improving in this area will be tracked weekly in tests.
- Reading is also a vital part of homework and this will continue. This reading should always be undertaken with a more proficient reader than the child, at home. The times that you read don't need to take long, reading a passage that gives you enough to discuss and that allows you to challenge their vocabulary understanding. The children have the task of getting an adult signature in their reading records to show that they have read.
- Target spellings will be set for learning/revision and tested weekly.
- Other homework will reinforce concepts learnt in English or maths and will differ, week to week.
- There may also be some topic work set, from time to time, or may come in the form of a project over a number of weeks.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, 14th January - Swimming restarts

Tuesday, 5th February - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday, 12th February - Parent Consultations

18th February - 22nd February - HALF TERM

Friday, 5th April - End of Spring term (Easter holidays)

Class assemblies - Parents are warmly invited to attend their child's class assembly (9 - 9.30am):

11th March - 4O Class Assembly

18th March - 4A Class Assembly.

Do not hesitate to contact us in person or via email/phone if ever there is anything that you would like to discuss.

Mrs Hannan, Mr Bedwell, Mrs Hamamci & Mr Richards