



4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everybody! I hope that you managed to make the most of the rare moments of summer sunshine and that you feel suitably refreshed and raring to go. We certainly are!

**Class novels (read by the teacher):** *Stig of the Dump* (by Clive King) and *The Iron Man* (by Ted Hughes)

**English:** We will start our year by reading the much-loved 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. This book has been carefully selected to enhance our history topic and provide us with a child's perspective on prehistoric Britain. We will use this book to write a time-slip narrative about prehistoric life. After that, we will use a combination of texts to consolidate our learning in science (rocks, fossils and soils). We will start by reading 'The Fossil Hunter' (by Kate Winter) which focuses on the important work of the prominent British scientist Mary Anning. We will support this unit by also reading 'The Pebble in my Pocket' (by Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady) and 'The Street Beneath my Feet' (by Charlotte Guillian and Yuval Zommer).

**Maths:** We will begin the year by consolidating and strengthening our understanding of number and place value. After that, both Year 3 and 4 will spend the term focusing on extending their learning about place value (the value and ordering of numbers), addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also learn about Roman numerals. You can make a headstart on this by helping your child to spot Roman numerals outside of school.

**Science:** We will learn about rocks, fossils and soils. We will conduct investigations to better understand their properties and uses. After that, we will learn about forces and magnetism. We will study the effect of forces on various objects, including our bodies, and look at how magnetic fields work.

**PE:** We will focus on fundamental game skills by playing a range of games and sports-specific activities. We will develop our throwing and catching, agility and strength. We will also develop our understanding of attacking vs defensive tactical play. We will also be learning how to create sequences of movement to music in our dance lessons with the Blue Moose Dance company

**RE:** Our first RE focus of the year will be **Christianity** and we will be answering the question - How and why have some people served God? We will then move onto **Sikhism**, answering the question - Why are Gurus so important to Sikhs?

Headteacher: Mrs Gail Bowskill

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**History:** Our history topic this term will focus on prehistoric Britain. We will learn about the gradual transition from hunter-gatherers to farmers and how this impacted life in Britain. We will develop our skills as historians by analysing evidence and artefacts and discussing their importance on our understanding of the prehistoric world.

**Geography:** We will develop our understanding of the different types of settlements. We will use a range of primary and secondary sources (e.g. maps and photographs) to study our local area and the world beyond. We will identify many of the world's countries and major cities and discuss how land is used.

**French:** Our learning will focus on greetings (Salut, ça va?), personal information (Moi), the alphabet and colours. Throughout the term, we will focus on all four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening and the children will produce identity cards in French.

**Art:** Our focus will be on prehistoric artwork. We will plan, sketch and create our own cave paintings, focusing on the use of charcoal and outlining.

**Design Technology:** We design and create mechanically aided toys. We will study different types of mechanisms and how they can be used to propel objects.

**Computing:** We will begin the year by focusing heavily on the importance of online safety. We will look at how to stay safe online and where to turn to if we ever need help. It would be fantastic if you could work alongside us to help your child stay safe whilst using the internet at home. We will then move on to look at what networks are made of, as well as the use of CAD and Micro:bit in DT.

**Music:** The children will have weekly ukulele sessions with the Lancashire Music Service.

## **PE**

PE will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Tuesday afternoon lessons will be led by Mike Sambell. Mike is a PE specialist and has been running our Friday dodgeball club after school. Our lesson on Thursday will be provided by the Blue Moose Dance Company. Please ensure that your kit is in school at all times.

## **Outdoor learning**

We will be taking our learning outdoors often so it would be useful for your child to have a pair of wellies that can be kept in school at all times.

## **Snacks**

Children can buy toast at breaktime for 20p a slice. They can also bring in a piece of fruit from home.

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## Homework

This term, we will be focusing on key skills in maths and English, both in class and for homework. We would be very grateful if you would support your child at home with the following:

**Daily reading** - All children should read a quality text of an appropriate level that they bring into school each day and take home each night, completing their reading record daily. Children will read books from a structured reading scheme until we decide they are ready to become a 'free reader'. We ask that everyone reads for a minimum of twenty minutes daily. Reading records will be checked daily and if not completed, children will be supported with their daily reading at the lunchtime reading club.

**Weekly spellings** - These will be set on Monday and tested each Friday. Spellings for the whole term will be sent home and will also be available on the class page of the website. Please support your child in learning their five weekly spellings.

**Times tables** - These should be practised regularly at home; knowing these is crucial and the expectation of the national curriculum is that all children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. This means being able to recite times tables. and knowing related division facts 5 times 6 is 30, 30 divided by 5 is 6.

*On occasion, we may send handwriting homework home so that your child can develop and consolidate their presentation skills.*

If you would like to speak to me about anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email or in person at the beginning or end of the school day.

Best wishes,



Mrs Cain