



15th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everybody. I hope that you enjoyed your two week break and that you managed to fit in some much needed rest and relaxation. We can look forward to longer days, warmer weather and many exciting topics ahead.

Our main questions this term will be *'Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?' and 'What can we learn about the Anglo-Saxons from the discoveries at Sutton Hoo?'*

**Class novels:** 'The Midnight Fox' by Betsy Byers and 'The King Who Threw Away his Throne' by Terry Deary

**English:** We will begin by reading the beautifully illustrated and magnificently detailed 'Everest' by Alexandra Stewart and extracts from 'Majestic Mountains' by Mia Cassany. Both books will be used to inspire a series or narrative, diary, non-fiction and descriptive writes about mountains and the people who climb them. Both books will link closely to our geography topics. Later in the term we will use the ever popular 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell to delve into a vocabulary rich, imaginative world, producing a narrative about a foe that eventually becomes a friend.

**Maths:** Over the summer term, we will cover many different topics in maths. Year 3 will learn how to calculate using money; tell the time to the nearest minute; calculate intervals of time; identify, name and describe common shapes and their properties; and interpret statistics. Year 4 will continue learning how to calculate using money; calculate intervals of time; describe shapes and their properties; interpret statistics; and describe the position and direction of objects and images.

**Science:** We will learn about electricity, beginning with identifying electrical objects around us and moving onto building simple series circuits. We will identify, name and use components of circuits, including bulbs, buzzers, wires, clips, switches and batteries. We will also identify, test and compare a range of electrical conductors.

**PE:** This term, the class will continue to have PE lessons with Mr Sambell. The class will begin by learning how to play rounders and by developing sequences of movement in gymnastics. They will then move on to improving their confidence and control in track and field activities as well as developing their problem solving skills in Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. Both Gymnastics and Outdoors activities will be taught by Mrs Cain.

**RE:** Our two RE questions this term are *'What do Christians mean by the Holy Spirit?'* and *'Why is the prophet Muhammed an example to Muslims?'*. In Christianity, we will learn about the Holy Spirit as a helper, teacher, and comforter. We will seek to understand how he becomes part of a Christian's life and helps us understand the importance of Jesus. In Islam, we will look at the life of the prophet Muhammad and how he influenced the daily practices of Muslims, including the daily prayer rituals and the way in which Muslims must conduct themselves towards others.

**Geography:** Our geography topic this term will focus on hills and mountains. To begin with, we will learn about the differences between hills and mountains. We will identify and name some of the world's major mountain ranges (including ranges in the UK) and some of the world's highest peaks. To deepen our understanding, we will compare a local mountain town (Keswick) with one from another country and continent.

**History:** In history, we are going to answer the questions *'Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?' and 'What can we learn about the Anglo-Saxons from the discoveries at Sutton Hoo?'* We will learn about why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and where from; how they travelled here; the tribes that they lived in; and how they changed Britain during their occupation.

**French:** In our unit 'As-tu un animal?', we will be learning the names of animals in French, expressing preferences and talking about our pets. We will then move onto learning the compass points in French, the names of some geographical features, imperative verbs and bring this all together in the story of The Bear Hunt (La Chasse a l'ours).

**Art:** In art, we will be developing our knowledge of 3D artwork and sculpture. We will learn how to join 2D shapes together to make 3D structures; use space to create abstract artwork; create our own sculptures inspired by everyday equipment; and decorate sculptures taking note of surface texture and audience criteria.

**Design Technology:** We are going to develop our understanding of digital technologies. We will design, create and evaluate a wearable technology using Micro:bit and digital programming.

**Computing:** We will complete two computing units this term. In the first, we will focus on using the programme Scratch to create our own games. We will learn how to 'loop' code debug programming. After that, we will learn about branching databases, understanding how to programme a database to make choices.

**Music:** We are going to focus on developing our singing technique. We will look at projection and clarity as we practise for our summer production.

### PE

PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. It is absolutely essential that PE kit is in school, including appropriate shoes. Children who do not have their kit may need to make up for missed lesson time in their own time.

### Outdoor learning

Now that the weather is improving, we will aim to take our learning outdoors as often as possible 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.

### Homework

**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. Our suggested independent reads for this term are: *The Ice Palace* - Robert Swindells, *Beyond the Deepwoods* - Paul Riddell and *The Green Ship* - Quentin Blake.

Everyone should read for a minimum of twenty minutes each day. 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 are 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. Year 4 pupils will participate in the Multiplication Check this term so please ensure that you are practising at home as much as possible.

### **Comprehension and maths -**

Maths homework will continue to be offered on Google Drive but is not mandatory. On occasion, comprehension homework may also be set on Google Drive. Both maths and comprehension homework tasks will be set on a Monday and should be completed by Friday of the same week.

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