

Year Four: Autumn 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so excited about our return to school and a fantastic year of learning ahead. This email will provide you with information about the coming term. You will be able to find a topic map on the school website outlining the topic areas for learning.

The overarching theme of the Year 4 Curriculum is 'Governance'. We will begin this journey with a visit to The Roman Empire and its collapse as troops are recalled to Rome. We will travel through Ancient Pompeii and witness its destruction by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius – giving depth to our geographical study of Mountains and Earthquakes. In Art, we will look at the enormous canvases by Guyana born, British artist, Frank Bowling, before creating our own explosive paintings. Continuing with the cross curricular nature of our learning, we will also design and make our own volcanic pizzas. But to begin, we will start in a very different place, exploring our hopes and fears through the text 'Black Dog'. This will lead on to the hopes and dreams of Faith Ringgold's character Cassie, in 'Tar Beach'. We will use Ringgold's beautiful illustrations and quilts as inspiration for our own collages. Science will be a lot of hands on fun and exploration of Sound.

English

As in Year 3, the focus of this term will be on gaining a secure understanding of word classes and sentence structure. We will interweave this grammatical teaching into exciting core texts and stimuli. We will look briefly at the features of writing that informs and writing that entertains. Children will have the opportunity to use scaffolded, modelled and shared writes to develop their writing style as well as be given time to write independently using shared input from prior lessons. They will focus on drafting, editing and re-drafting. Children will have regular handwriting and spelling practice during the week, with a whole school focus on developing our vocabulary.

Supporting your child's learning

There are lots of ways to support your child at this stage but it is important to remember that the most important way you can help your child is by ensuring that they enjoy learning—so don't force things. Using attractive pens and notebooks is a great way to get children interested in writing. Encourage them to take pride in their handwriting and rehearse incorrect spellings. Keep it light hearted and fun!

Reading and Home learning

In the first few weeks of this term we will assess all children to see if they should be using a scheme, which builds upon phonetic stages, or if they should be choosing their own books. At this point in their school life, some children will still be reading regularly with school adults, some will be doing small group phonics lessons and some will be reading independently. The majority of our literacy lessons have a reading element to them allowing us to subtly keep an eye on everyone's reading progress, as well as explicit whole class reading lessons every week.

Children should be reading at home for approximately **20 minutes per night**; this should be recorded in their reading records. Reading records will be monitored fortnightly by teaching staff to ensure that children are reading a range of quality texts. Please ensure that your child has their reading book and record with them in school **every day**. Children may choose a book from our collection or one from home.

Supporting your child's learning

Please use these ideas to support your child when reading their books with you at home.

- Encourage your child to discuss what they have read and seen in books.
- Ask questions about what has happened/how the character may feel.
- Discuss with your child the author's choice of words and description.

Maths

In Maths, we will be going back to basics, revising Place Value, in preparation for extending our knowledge of calculations and division. This year, we will also have a focus on times tables, building on the work the children achieved in Year 3.

Supporting your child's mathematical learning at home:

- Look for and discuss patterns and similarities in times tables – children should know the majority of their times tables to ten by this point. Songs are a great way to practice and they can build on the fun they had with Times table Rockstars.
- Seek opportunities to use applied mathematics: converting recipe ingredients, calculating change in shops or calculating journey times.

Physical Development & Outside Learning

It is important that children have their school PE kit (including trainers) in school (in a draw-string bag) with them each week—we suggest that they bring it in on Monday and take it home on Friday as often PE lessons may be moved to accommodate other activities.

Monday– Yoga – 1st term Tweed, 2nd term Corduroy

Reminders

- Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school every day.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing, including PE Kits, are **clearly labelled** with your child's name.
- Please ensure your child has their hair tied back and that they are not wearing jewellery (beyond simple stud earrings-- if required)
- As winter draws near, please ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket in school: we will be going out to play rain or shine!
- Please ensure that your child has a labelled water bottle in school.
- Please make sure that you are linked to the class Dojo account and that you are checking it regularly for updates.
- It is vital that you let the school know if you are unable to collect your child from school or if plans change. You can do this by speaking to the school office by phone or email to inform us of who will be collecting your child.
- Check Schools Buddy for details of trips and events.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

Kate Gorely – Tweed Class, Naomi Robinson – Corduroy Class and Ashley Moran.