

CURRICULUM INFORMATION – CLASS 4

TERMS 3 AND 4 2015

Literacy

At the beginning of the term we looked at the genre of mystery stories using the book “Short!” by Kevin Crossley-Holland. The children looked at how to add suspense, clues and red herrings into their writing. The children also investigated the use of adverbials to link sentences or paragraphs together and began learning how to use the semi colon (;) to good effect.

Following their mystery stories, the class will identify some features of argument texts and discuss differences between facts and opinions. They will find out how to present opinions as if they were facts, study formal and informal speech and research for and hold a class debate. The children will then write and edit their own argument text.

Using the amazing book “Tuesday” by David Wiesner, the class will investigate report writing. They will look at different ways of writing speech, play-scripts, speech bubbles and direct and reported speech. They will also compare formal and informal writing including the use of passive voice. This section will culminate with the children writing newspaper reports.

Term 4 will mainly concentrate on poetry and the children will explore many different poets and their work. They will use role-play, recitation and online research to aid their understanding. Finally the children will write their own free-verse poems inspired by those they have read.

The class are given spelling words on a Friday and they are then tested the following week. We do practice in the classroom using Look, Cover, Write, Check and a variety of spelling games but it is advisable that they supplement this practice at home. Websites, such as www.spellingcity.com, which will provide some free games with a typed in spelling list. This can be a fun tool though please make sure you check they have typed their words in correctly.

Numeracy

The next two term’s topics include place value, co-ordinates and statistics, mental multiplication and division, written multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio; perimeter, area and volume and algebra.

In co-ordinates and statistics, Year 5 will plot points and draw polygons in two quadrants. They will work out new co-ordinates after a translation or reflection and draw a line graph and read intermediate points. They will also understand and use approximate equivalences between metric units and common imperial units such as inches, pounds and pints. Year 6 will plot points and draw polygons in all four quadrants. They will work out new co-ordinates after a translation or reflection, construct and interpret pie charts, draw a line graph and read intermediate points. They will understand and use approximate equivalences between metric units and common imperial units.

In the section on written multiplication and multiplying and division fractions, the Year 5 children will multiply unit and non-unit fractions by whole numbers, writing any improper fractions as mixed numbers. They will also use short division to divide 3-digit numbers by single-digit numbers. Year 6 children will multiply pairs of fractions together, divide fractions by whole numbers and use long division to divide 3-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers.

In Term 4 Year 6 children will be invited to stay after school one evening a week for a SATs Club to help prepare them for the forthcoming exams. This activity will be run by Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fidler and will continue until the tests. Details will go out before the break.

Science

In Science this term we have begun by looking at the history of mapping in Science (linked to the Humanities Topic) and at historical figures in this field. We have also spent some time learning about famous Scientists through Time and their inventions. The children’s first homework task is to prepare and present their research around a famous Scientist. Our major topic will be ‘Physical Fun’ which covers a wide variety of Science

such as Magnetism, Electricity, Friction, Forces and their effects. Our studies into magnets and springs will involve testing magnets for strength, testing a variety of materials to see if they are magnetic (only ones containing iron, cobalt or nickel are) and investigating forces through the use of springs. Our studies into friction will then build on this work and will involve further work on force meters, investigations in to which surfaces provide most friction, and how to increase friction between solid surfaces. Parents can help their children by pointing out the use of magnets and springs in and around the home (domestic appliances, toys etc.) and how different surfaces in the home (vinyl, laminate, carpets etc.) provide differing amounts of friction. The BBC website 'Revisewise' has some useful information on both topics. We will use the internet and interactive whiteboard to access simulations and games concerned with the science we are studying. For Year 6 children we will be covering all Key Stage 2 science topics in our revision sessions after school.

French

Mrs Plumbe will continue to teach this on alternate Wednesday afternoons. She uses rhyme and song to build children's vocabulary and confidence.

ICT

The children use ICT throughout the day and across the curriculum. During our timetabled ICT time we will be focusing on programming, which is a large aspect of the new curriculum. The children will be using Scratch and 2Code to fulfil this programming element. Both of these can be accessed at home using the internet and Mrs Fidler will send home more information on how you can access and help with this in the coming weeks.

Humanities

The topic leading up to Easter is Maps and Mapping. The children will initially be learning some core mapping skills including compass points, map symbols, scale and grid-references. We will also get outside and use compass and GPS skills, including teaching the children about geocaching. In Term 4 the children will be undertaking a local area study on Bicester becoming a "Garden City". Finally, the class will be taking all this practical and local knowledge and extending it out to the wider world with research projects on different continents and their countries.

R.E.

Christianity is our key religion this term, looking at the life of Jesus and the events of his life. This will lead us to an exploration of the Easter story. We will be incorporating the teachings of Jesus in our PHSE lessons and discovering how they relate to our lives today.

Art and Design Technology

This term we are looking at the work of David Hockney to influence and inspire our art work, particularly his work which used the landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds as his inspiration. We will be learning to sketch and draw our local environment accurately. In DT we will be learning to use the ability of paper to have a "memory", and practicing quilling, paper folding and origami. Later in the term we hope to look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy, who used the textures and appearance of the natural world to inspire his sculptures.

Music and Drama

This term we will be exploring rounds. A round is a piece of music in which two or more performers or groups start one after the other. As each performer reaches the end of the music they start again – the music going round and round – hence the name. They will be using voices and instruments in this unit and they will be looking at scales and chords.

PE

We are focusing on our gymnastics skills this term and the children are learning about balances, counterbalances, symmetry and flight. This will be taken in small groups, partners and individually. While doing this, the children will also learn about handling and using PE apparatus safely and effectively. The class also practices yoga in the classroom as a transition activity.

Homework

Reading should be done a **minimum** of 3 times a week and entered into the reading diary. Ask your child questions about the storyline, author's intentions and character's feelings and motivations to help deepen their understanding.

Mathematics and English homework is handed out on a Friday and due back the following Friday. If you have any questions about the activity then please ask.

Science homework is given out on a Thursday when Mrs Pearson teaches and collected in the next week – sometimes a longer time period is given such as two or three weeks depending on the activity.

General Class Information

Please ensure that children arrive to school on time and that they have had a good night's sleep and have eaten breakfast as our learning begins as soon as the door is opened. Children will need both indoor and outdoor PE Kit at school every day.

Mrs Emilie Fidler (Monday – Thursday) and Mrs Susan Vincent (Fridays) – Class Teachers
Mrs Pearson will be teaching the class on Fridays in February
Mrs Elaine Honour – Teaching Assistant