

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter- Spring 2019

Welcome

Year 4 would like to welcome you all back for the spring term. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and are looking forward to the new year ahead! The Year 4 team are very much looking forward to an exciting spring term which includes a PGL trip in March.

Topic - Where in the world is Hagley?

Our topic during the spring term is 'Where in the world is Hagley?' We will focus on locating countries and major cities within Europe and will draw comparisons between European countries. During the spring term, Year 4 will be working on a project for change with a specific focus on exploring air pollution within the local environment.

Maths:



During Spring 1, the children have been learning about multiplication and division. They have looked at formal written methods and have begun to identify the most efficient ways of solving a variety of problems. In multiplication, they have multiplied 3 digits by 1 digit and in division have divided 2 digits by 1 digit numbers. The children have also learned about area. They have investigated and compared different areas in a problem solving context.

In Spring 2, the focus will be on fractions and decimals. When learning about fractions, the children will: become clear on what a fraction is, find equivalents, discover fractions greater than 1, count in fractions, add and subtract fractions and finally find fractions of amounts. When exploring decimals, the focus will be on tenths and hundredths, including apply their knowledge of multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 or 100.

We will also be regularly practising mental arithmetic skills to improve children's fluency and speed of recall.

Spellings and reading

For weekly spelling patterns, please see your child's spelling booklet. During the spring term, there will be a KS2 spelling competition every two weeks. The dates and spelling list for these have been sent home and we ask that you encourage your child to learn these spellings ready for the competition!

All children in Year 4 have a reading record book and we ask for all children to read at home a minimum of three times a week. This reading can be independent or aloud with an adult and recorded into reading records using the page number. Children may do this themselves if they feel confident. If a child has not completed 3 reading sessions during the week, we will ask them to attend an additional reading session during Monday break time.



Science - Living things and their habitats

- Identify different groups of living things
- Use classification to group living things
- Explore changes in the environment

Science - States of matter

- Define and identify solids, liquids and gases
- Investigate changes of state through heating or cooling
- Explore evaporation and condensation in the Water Cycle.

English:

During the beginning of this term, the children have been learning how to inform the reader through their writing. Linking with our topic of Electricity, they have been planning, drafting and editing a non-chronological report, inspired by their own learning.

In the next unit of writing, the children will be creating an exciting persuasive piece by promoting ideas for change in the local area. This will link directly with our topic project and encourage some excellent pieces of cross-curricular writing.



Mindfulness and wellbeing -

A part of Hagley Primary School's values include children's emotional wellbeing. Within year 4, children have been completing the 'Mindful 30 day challenge'. This gives every child the opportunity, throughout the school day, to have a calm, self-reflective moment which boosts concentration and a positive mindset. This compliments our Growth Mindset approach which we have already established within the school.

Things you could do at home to help your child...

- Read with your child as much as possible (ideally daily but 3 times minimum) as this helps with their fluency and understanding of texts, as well as helps to increase their imagination for their own writing. Children will be bringing home reading records to sign and date to show how frequently they have read during the week.
- Rehearse spellings for the KS2 spelling competition. Children will be tested every two weeks on a selection of Year 3 and 4 common exception words which were sent home recently.
- Practise times tables. At the end of year 4, children are expected to be able to recall times tables up to 12x12. In school, children practise times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars five times each week. This programme is also available to access at home and we encourage the children to do so as often as possible.

Education City - www.educationcity.com

Each child in Year 4 has a log in for Education City. This is a fantastic website full of educational games and activities. Under the 'My Revision' tab on your child's homepage, they can access maths games that are tailored to their learning. There are also games to revise different spelling patterns and many aspects of the English curriculum.

Reminders

PE

Nightingales - Outdoor: Monday, Indoor: Wednesday

Larks - Outdoor: Monday, Indoor: Wednesday

Finches - Outdoor: Monday, Indoor: Wednesday

Art Overall/Apron

Please check that your child has an apron or art shirt in their bags for messy activities in school.

Homework

Homework will be sent out on Thursday to be returned on Tuesday. Children in Year 4 will be set both maths and English homework tasks each week and these will set using your child's personal study book. These books cover all aspects of the Year 4 curriculum with a focus on spelling, grammar and punctuation in English and basic maths skills. These books will be provided for your children by the school and are a great way to help your child to consolidate the learning that has taken place in school.