

YEAR 4 CLASS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

Welcome back! Hope you had a restful Christmas break and are ready for all the new topics and adventures of Spring Term!



Messages:

Year 4 are getting more and more independent and taking responsibility for themselves and their belongings. So we can have a prompt start to the day, please try to pass any urgent or sensitive messages with Mrs GB or Miss Miller before school (appointments, issues or concerns, important allergies or ailments). The admin email address is admin@escrick.n-yorks.sch.uk. Any brief queries or questions can be written in their reading record or on a piece of paper. This can then be handed to their teacher by the child – e.g. ‘They are not going to basketball club today’ – or this could be emailed to Mrs GB.

TOPICS and learning

Romans/cities and counties of the UK (History/Geography)

Our new topic in History is the Anglo Saxons. We will be learning how this fits in with the Romans and the Vikings and other settlers in Britain in that time. This will also link to understanding the geography of England, Scotland and Wales and how the boundaries were created. Our learning will also cover the traditions and way of life of the Anglo-Saxons, comparisons with the Vikings and an understanding of the journey and patterns of invasion from Europe and Scandinavia.

Maths

At the core of our learning in maths, our times tables fact knowledge is key. Instant recall of these facts is so important because more complicated questions can be broken into chunks and solved more easily (working out 11 x 12 by counting in 12s will take too long and is too complicated!). We will also need this in preparation for the Year 4 multiplication check – more information to follow on this. In maths we will be starting with a focus on multiplication and division and moving towards measurement, area and perimeter. We then begin looking at fractions later in Spring term, which also has a strong link to multiplication and division.

English

We are looking at both fiction and non-fiction texts this term. Our first text is called ‘The Promise’ which involves a theft, a promise and a mission to put things right. We will be writing based on stories from other cultures and also writing non-fiction texts linked to our Science and History knowledge.

Science

In Science, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. Our sorting and classifying skills will be put into action and we will also make links to maths and number when learning about animal statistics. We also consider adaptation and evolution and the ways animals have adapted to their surroundings.

Music

In music we are learning the Gospel song ‘Lean on me’ by Bill Withers. We will be learning about rhythm, singing in a round and writing some of our own lyrics.

Jigsaw PSHE and RE

Our new puzzle piece for Jigsaw PSHE is ‘Dreams and goals’. In RE we are continuing to learn about the beliefs and traditions of Hindus and how religious stories shape their worship and way of life.

Art/D&T

In art, we will be exploring portraits and refining our drawing and sketching skills. We will learn more about proportion, expressions and study the work of famous portrait artists and different styles and techniques.

Computing

In computing, we will be exploring data collection. We understand what data is, why it needs to be collected and will then carry out practical tasks that involve collecting different types of data to answer research questions. We will have another chance to use the data loggers to carry this out and apply our science skills in these lessons too.

Spanish

In Spanish we will continue to learn greetings and key vocab and will start to learn about families and how to describe our family to others.

Timetable and other info

PE and forest school – Monday PE, Wednesday PE, Friday forest school – every other week.

We continue to have PE on Monday afternoons: PE kits need to be in school on Mondays. We have PE on Wednesdays with Ben our PE coach. We have forest school on alternate Friday afternoons, starting on Friday 19th January. Please ensure FULL forest school kit is provided, including wellies/old shoes, and suitable trousers and cover ups/waterproofs depending on the weather.

Spellings and homework

New spellings will be given out on Fridays. These follow the Year 4 spelling rules or include words related to topics learnt.

Homework tasks will vary from grammar work, maths tasks and practise to Science activities or other written work and research. As we approach the end of Year 4 multiplication check, we may also send home times tables tasks or games to play to continue to maintain their fluency with these facts.

Homework and spelling books are to be handed in by Thursday at the latest to allow time to mark and return them to children on Friday.

Reading records and reading books

Children are reading chapter books in group reading and answering comprehension questions linked to these in their English work as part of English lessons. Children in Year 4 are often classes as ‘free readers’ – they are free to choose books provided by school to take home and read. You may also wish to visit your local library, who have a wide range of quality books to borrow, in both paperback and electronic forms.

In Year 4, we would like children to start keep a log of books they have read and give them a brief score/review to develop their reading taste and preferences. Last year, we sent out a whole school list of ‘recommended reads’ collated from children across the school.

In addition to this, there are a number of blogs and websites that recommend books for different age groups. This list for ‘reluctant readers’ is a good place to start. <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/lower-ks2-reluctant-readers>

Children need to understand at least 95% of the words they read in a text in order to understand it.

Reading out loud and discussing to check understanding is key!

Reading fluency is still so important in Year 4. Although children may not choose to read out loud, we would encourage you to hear your child read each week as this will also allow you to check that they understand the words they come across. In order to fully understand a text, children need to be familiar with the meaning of over 95% of words – so understanding words is a key part of reading a book, not just being able to say the word.

Thank you for your continued support, Miss Wilde.