

Year 4 Spring Term Newsletter

We are excited for a busy Spring term.

English

This term, our English lessons will predominantly link in with our class novel *Lost on Gibbon Island*. A tale of adventure and peril when a young girl is stranded on an island near Cambodia.

Spelling tests and practice will continue to take place on a weekly basis. The spelling test will take place on a Friday. Your child will receive their new words during the spelling lesson on a Friday. We would be grateful if you could encourage your child to practice their spellings at home. They will be on Dojo.

Maths

The **National Key Stage 2 times table check** is fast approaching in June 2024. The national curriculum requires all children to have rapid recall of all times tables by the end of Year 4 which is essential for future success in mathematics.

Our weekly maths homework focusses on practicing their times tables. All children are working on individual targets. On purple mash, they complete 40 questions on their targeted times table which replicates the conditions of the national times table check. Before completing the Purple Mash task, it would be helpful to practice using websites (Top Marks, Times Tables Rockstars, and Purple Mash) or writing out/testing them on the table they are focussing on.

Explore Dream Discover Curriculum

This term, we have exciting learning across the curriculum. In geography, we have been finding out about about the water cycle and the features of rivers charting their journeys from the source to the ocean/sea. In art, we have been exploring textile and printing inspired by the Kente fabric from Ghana in West Africa. Later, this term we will be finding about sculpture and creating our own figures inspired by the artist Alberto Giacometti. In history, we will begin to learn about the development of ancient civilisations before focussing on Ancient Egypt. In science, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. As part of science day, we will have an exciting handling session with the Animal Man where the children will be able to learn about a range of insects, reptiles and animals. In music, we will be composing and performing a rap about bullying.

Reading

Reading remains at the heart of our school life. We are hopeful that all our children will continue to enjoy reading at home and sharing their books with you. Please check out the Willows Library Webpage that gives exciting reading news, recommendations and allows you to search the schools online catalogue.

We will track reading in school in a number of ways:-

- We will scan your children's reading books out to them via our on-line library system. We will scan these back in when they return them.
- Each time your child chooses their home reading book, they will record this on their reading record sheet at school. When they quiz on Accelerated Reader, they will record their quiz score and then return their book.
- If you would like your child to quiz at home, please follow the link below.

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/2209120>

P.E.

PE is on a Tuesday and Thursday. Children are required to wear their full P.E. kit for the entire.

Please ensure that children have full PE kit including trainers / pumps and also a royal blue hoody and navy blue tracksuit trousers as we will be outside when possible.

Homework

Homework will be given out on a weekly basis.

Children should:

Practise their spellings ready for their end of week tests.

Practise their times tables and complete the activity on Purple Mash.

Read 5 times per week.

Teachers will be monitoring how often children are quizzing and how successful they are being, as well as keeping a record of books being read and returned.

Diary Dates

Overnight Residential at Standon Bowers

26th/27th February 2024 - Overnight residential at Standon Bowers.

This will be an exciting opportunity to build independence and resilience. Children will participate in a range of adventure activities that includes archery, caving or bouldering, climbing ropes and orienteering. We are hopeful that with such an active program they will sleep well! The kit list has been posted on class dojo – please check your class story.

Showcase Assemblies

We would like to invite you to our showcase assembly performances to share what we have been learning.

Wednesday 13th March 2024 – 4KB Woodpecker

Thursday 14th March 2024 – 4WB Robin

Monday 18th March 2024 – 4TC Chaffinch

June 2024 – Key Stage 2 National Times Tables Tests

Dojo

Information, newsletters and communications including notifications of our Stars of the Week will be posted here so please ensure you have connected.

We are always happy to chat to parents; the best time to talk to us is at the end of the day as we are very busy first thing in the morning. If you do need to contact us before school please telephone the school office. You can also contact us via Dojo with less urgent issues and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We all look forward to a happy and successful year together.

Year 4 Team