



Year 4 – Blue Class Newsletter – Spring Term 2023

16th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new year! We hope that you had a lovely Christmas holiday – thank you again for all our very generous gifts last term, it was very kind of you to think of us. We have a busy and exciting term ahead of us, read on to find out more.

The children started the term thinking about their New Year's resolutions – they have all named a buddy to help and encourage them keep to their goal (many of them selected you, their lovely parents!). Do chat to your children about their goals for 2023 and how you/their buddies can support them achieve it. As part of our PSHCE topic, 'Learning to Learn for the Future', we are also thinking about barriers we may face and how to overcome them and what to do when we are stuck on something and want to give up. Where and when appropriate, do keep talking to your children about their goals and particularly strategies to help them when they are finding their learning /things tricky.

Curriculum update

Children in Year 4 will be studying all subjects in the National Curriculum. This term in History, we will be learning about the achievements of Anglo Saxons and their struggle for the kingdom of England. Our new Geography topic is 'Mountains', in which we will look at the location of mountain ranges across the globe, their formation and then use the Alps as a case study, as a continuation of our focus on Europe this year. **Any adventurous, mountain climbing parents / grandparents / family members / friends would be very welcome to come in and talk to the children about the beauty and triumph of climbing mountains, and also the challenges. Photos of family mountain hikes also welcome – particularly of the mountain landscape** – please let Mrs Browne know if you have an exciting mountain adventure to share. Photos can be handed in to either class teacher or emailed to us via the admin email – admin@camp.herts.sch.uk (ref- year 4). This is also the email you can use for any communication to class – it will get to us.

The **Medium-Term Overview** provides more details about the English, Maths and Science focus areas for this term.

Reading

Last half term we re-introduced the green reading records to the class and are trying to encourage the children to use these themselves to record their reading. Although we ask the children to try and read every day, we have suggested they try and update their reading record 3 times a week (more is fine). Of course, comments from parents are also welcome. Although we as staff write in the books less, we do check the entries and it enables us to check the range of books the children are reading and acts as a good conversation starter with the children when we check in with their reading. Also, just a reminder that as the children progress through KS2, there is a greater focus on guided reading rather than one to one reading – although we do still do both. **If your child is finding it hard to find a book they enjoy at their level, please do let us know so we can support with this as soon as possible.** I will also re-post the links to Book Trust bookfinder and the Year 4 recommended reads on GC with this week's homework.

All children are expected to bring to school with them their reading books and green reading records every day and should be reading at home to an adult or older sibling regularly.

Homework

As well as reading at home, maths (see section below) and spelling homework will continue to be set once a week. Homework is **always** handed out as a paper copy on Friday, as well as being uploaded to Google Classroom. Sometimes, other pieces of homework may be set, linked to a topic that we are studying – we will tell the children what this is and where to find it (e.g. if a link has been added to GC). Homework needs to be **handed in by Thursday at the latest** – either turned in on GC or the homework book brought back in. If homework is handed in on Friday it will not be marked as there is just no time to do so before handing the book back out. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability and to return it on time. Reading should be 10 mins a day, Spellings should be 20 minutes a week (little and often tends to be better) and Maths should be 20 minutes.

Times Tables

There is a big focus on learning all the times tables off by heart in Y4 so please can you continue to support your child at home to try and secure the times table facts to their long-term memory.

TTTRS / Purple Mash and Birds Vs Robots are all used by the children in school, but any ways you can help (chanting, / sticky notes around the house with a fact a day/ games with digit cards) will be really helpful. This regular over learning will help the children remember and recall the facts with accuracy and increased speed over time. Thank you for your support.

PE and Swimming – IMPORTANT TO READ AS DAY CHANGE!

Swimming for Y4 continues this term on **Mondays**. Please could you make sure your child has a swimming hat and wears clothes that are easy for them to get changed into. (Tights are a bit of a challenge!)

Our PE day has now changed to a TUESDAY. We may also have the occasional slot on a **Thursday** so please can the children **keep their kit in all week**; this is also for the best as PE days are sometimes prone to change. **PE kits** should include a Camp School P.E. top or a white t-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit trousers, and a pair of plimsolls/trainers to change into. A warm tracksuit top is also advisable for this time of year for sessions held outside (plain coloured, black or navy preferable but just something warm). During the school day the class will also complete the daily mile on the school's running track. Please make sure that your child always has a water bottle in school that they can use for PE lessons.

Best wishes,

The Year 4 team