



Class Four Newsletter

Welcome back to school and welcome to Spring Term 2015! We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas break and that you are ready for the new topic to begin!

This newsletter will give you a brief outline of what we will be up to in class during the Spring term but, as always, if there is anything else you need to know just come and ask. After school is the best time to catch us as mornings can be a little bit busy!

What will we be learning about this term?

Below is a brief summary of some of the things the children will be learning about this term. You will also find a topic overview at the end of this newsletter.

English

The children will be following the National Curriculum objectives relating to their age and ability. As part of our English work we will use a class text as a focus for studying poetry, diary writing, information texts and persuasive writing. The children will have opportunities to complete some longer, sustained narrative and information writing and will develop their skills through drafting and editing their work.

Reading

Almost all of our reading in school is now done through guided reading, although there will still be some individual reading done. The books are colour banded and we will continue to encourage the children to change their own books. We would encourage you to read with your child frequently as this helps them with fluency and intonation. As they progress, they will increasingly come upon vocabulary that will need explaining and this time is ideal for you to check that they understand what they have read.



Maths

As in English, the children will follow objectives from the National Curriculum, relating to their age and ability. We will have a daily focus on the Key Instant Recall Facts (K.I.R.F.s), more information about these is sent home each half-term. You can help your child at home by carrying out some of the activities on the sheet. We will also be covering place value, calculation, shape, measuring and handling data.



We would encourage you to continue using Mathletics 3 to 5 times a week. Some of our children are well on the way to achieving a Gold Certificate which is a great achievement and is celebrated in school during Friday's assembly. Mathletics certificates will be presented on Friday as well as the trophy for "Mathlete of the Week"!

Topic

The whole school topic is Mexico. We will be investigating the geographical features of Mexico and how it differs to the United Kingdom. We will also research what it's like to live in Mexico, studying the climate and daily life of the people of Mexico. We are looking forward to preparing the foods for our own Mexican Fiesta which will enjoy at the end of the half term. After the half term we learn about the history of Mexico, with a particular focus on the Aztecs.

Science

In science we will identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating, recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear and find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it. We will find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

P.E.

Our P.E. days this term are Thursdays (indoor P.E.) and Fridays (outdoor P.E.) The Friday P.E. session will be taught by Mr Wright, a P.E. specialist, from Premier Sports and the focus during this session will be invasion games.

It is useful for your child to keep their P.E. kit in school, especially their trainers, just in case we get any extra sessions or have to change our day. We will be going out for some sessions so make sure they have suitable clothing for inside and out. Please could inhalers remain in your child's bag so that they can access them when

Who is teaching and when?

Mrs MacDonald will teach the class Monday - Thursday and Mrs Sanderson will teach every Friday, with Mr Wright teaching P.E. each Friday morning.

Homework and Spellings

Subject	Given	Return by the following
Spellings (All)	Monday	Monday
Maths (All)	Wednesday	Wednesday
English (Year 5 only)	Friday	Friday

Spelling homework will be set on a Monday and needs to be handed in on the following Monday. The spellings will follow a particular spelling pattern or rule and the children will be set a homework activity which relates to this. We will not test the children formally each week, which is a change from how we approached spellings in the Autumn term.

Maths homework, sometimes Mathletics, will be set on Wednesday to be returned or completed by the following Wednesday.

Year 5 children will also have English homework each Friday which will need to be returned by the following Friday.

If, for whatever reason, your child has been unable to complete their homework please let us know, either by having a chat with one of us first thing in the morning or by writing a note in their planner. We can then make arrangements for completing it, either during playtimes or at home. The children can go on Mathletics as often as they like! It's great fun and wonderful for independent learning.

I hope that this newsletter has been informative and we look forward to a very busy and exciting term.

Best wishes,

Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Free.