

Class 4 News - September 2023



Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a lovely summer and is now ready for an exciting new term. Class 4 has made me feel really welcome and I know we are going to have an amazing year. I'm very much looking forward to becoming part of the Byers Green family!



This half term our English work will be based on the book 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo. Set in the heart of an Indonesian rainforest, we will join the main character, Will, as learns how to survive in the jungle.

Through the text, we will explore the ways an author can develop their characters and how grammatical features can alter meaning for a reader. Over the course of the novel, we will write texts in different genres including newspapers, formal letters, stories and discussion texts. We will study the spelling, punctuation and grammar aspects of our curriculum including, adverbial, cohesion and the use of commas, brackets and dashes to add parenthesis to our own writing. I'm looking forward to reading the work that the children produce.



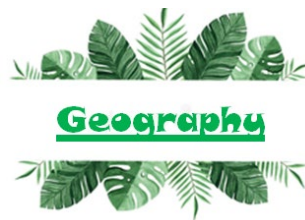
This year we are going to continue to teach children key spellings using specific rules. For each pattern, the children will complete tasks and investigations that will help the children to gain a deeper understanding of the words and their meanings. Hopefully, this will give them the opportunity to master the words and commit them to long term memory. Your support to learn the spelling rule and practise the words is very much appreciated.



Reading continues to be a main priority in Class 4 and across the school. It is not only a key aspect in English; it is also vitally important when accessing other areas of the curriculum. Since most of the children in Class 4 are able to read independently, with a high level of fluency, their focus this term is to build reading stamina, particularly with more challenging texts, and demonstrate an understanding of what they have read in different ways. Each child will be given a book (either a levelled book from the reading scheme, or if they have completed the reading scheme, a book of their choice). Following on from previous routines, **I ask that the children bring their books into school every day.** Although, they are encouraged to read with increasing independence, it is always helpful if they are able to practise reading aloud and/or have the opportunity to discuss what they have read. I would be very grateful for any support you could give with this at home. When they are ready to change their book, they can independently do this during registration.



This term we will be revising our knowledge of place value in increasingly larger numbers as well as investigating numbers that are below 0. We will continue to master the calculation methods in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and use the appropriate strategy depending on the context. Towards the end of the term, we will also be studying different types of measurement and find out how to convert from one to another. Throughout all units, the children will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real life problems and explain their thought process.



With our theme this term being 'Rainforests', our Geography work will explore the location of tropical forests around the world as we consider the climate that is expected in these diverse habitats. We will also be learning about the layers of the forest and why they are so important for us even though we live so far away.



Our science topic is 'Living Things' which is perfect for our rainforest theme. During the next few weeks, children are going to find out about the classification system, and how this can be used to identify both plants and animals in the middle of a tropical forest. We will also learn how different animals are able to adapt to their habitat.



During the Autumn term, the children are going to be finding out what it is like to live in a tropical forest. We will then design our own shelter, to survive in the elements, before building our own scaled models.

In addition to our main project, we will also be extending our drawing and painting skills as we create a range of images of rainforest plants and animals.



The focus of PE this term is netball. We will be learning the skills that are required in this sport and playing small sided team games. Please could the children come to school wearing PE kit on a Friday. PE kit is plain navy joggers, plain white T-shirts, plain navy hoody/sweater and appropriate trainers. It is likely that PE will be held outside and therefore please ensure that the children are wearing the appropriate kit! Please can all jewellery be removed (preferably at home) to prevent injury, loss or damage. I'm also very happy to say that Class 4 will be starting forest school on a Tuesday afternoon. This will help us develop our skills in team work and determination. Please send wellies with your child if they have them as it could get muddy!



Throughout the whole Autumn and Spring term, Class 4 will continue to go swimming every Monday at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. Please can the children bring swimming costume/trunks or shorts, a towel and swimming hat and goggles. If your child can not attend swimming, please can parents/ carers inform me or the school office. Please can all jewellery be removed as this is the Leisure Centre's policy as well as ours.



As we all know, technology is becoming more and more advanced and it therefore continues to be important to teach our children how to stay safe when they are online. This term we are going to focus on using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly and learn how to recognise acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour. We will find out what to do if we are concerned about anything that we see online. Later in the term, we are also going to deepen our knowledge around coding as we design, write and debug programmes for a specific goal.



Our topic this term is relationships. We are going to explore the relationships that we have with others and how to make them positive. We will also learn strategies to help us maintain relationships with others and deal with conflict. We will also take part in a weekly circle time where the children can choose their own topics to discuss with their peers.



Miss Forth will be covering class on a Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning. She will be delivering RE, Spanish and Music. In RE the children will be learning more about Christianity through different concepts. In Spanish, the focus is all about the culture and the children are going to find out all about Dia Nacional de Espana and Dia de los Muertos. In Music the children will be learning to play the recorder with support from the Durham music service.



Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and is due to be handed in the following Wednesday. This gives the children the opportunity to ask for help on a Monday or Tuesday should they need it. I appreciate your support in this and hope to work alongside you in encouraging the children to take responsibility for completing and returning homework. If you, or your child, have any questions about the homework please do not hesitate to ask!

YEAR 6 CHILDREN AND PARENTS

I will be holding an important SATs meeting on Thursday 21st September at 3:30pm. This is for parents, carers **and Year 6 children**. I will show previous SATs materials, talk about the expectations and discuss revision and preparation. This will be the perfect opportunity to talk about any worries you have and explore ideas with me so we can work together to prepare the children in the best way possible.

Thank you for reading the Class 4 newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am always happy to help and look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks!

Kind regards,

Mrs King

