

Class 4 News - November 2023



I hope everyone had a lovely half-term holiday and that you are looking forward to the next few weeks as we lead up to Christmas. It is going to be very exciting! We will be continuing with our rainforest theme but it is going to be very busy with lots of other lessons, activities and extra-curricular opportunities.



The aim for this half term is to complete *Running Wild* by Michael Morpurgo and find out what happens to Will, the main character. At the moment he is lost in the middle of the Indonesian Rainforest with only Oona, an elephant, for company. We will be using the text to revisit our reading comprehension skills including retrieval, inference and deduction, interpretation and understanding authorial intent. In addition, we will also be writing in a range of genres - both fiction and non-fiction. I am particularly looking forward to writing our own rainforest adventure stories. This children in Class 4 have already shown me how good their imaginations can be so I'm expecting to be really entertained when I read their work. As part of our English work, we will also be learning about the impact of deforestation around the world and will hold our own debate before writing a persuasive piece on this controversial issue.



Throughout the half term, children will continue to bring their weekly spellings home every Friday. The aim is for them to practise a little bit each day ready for our test the following week. Our spellings will continue to focus on the key rules outlined in the Year5/6 National Curriculum. For each pattern, the children will complete tasks and investigations that will help them 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 focus, both in Class 4 and across the school, and I would love to see the children reading for pleasure as well as in relation to their learning. When they find the right book, by the right author, it really does unlock their imagination. Each child will continue to 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) that they can read both at home or at school. They are also welcome to read books from home and I always like to receive book recommendations which I can then read myself. 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 half term we will continue to revise or standard written calculations through daily arithmetic challenges. We will also be starting our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. Beginning with decimal place value, we are going to develop our knowledge, make simple conversions and learn how to complete calculations, using all four operations. To consolidate their knowledge, children will continue to bring home maths tasks that reflect what they have learned during the week. Throughout all units, the children will be given the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real life problems and explain their thought process.



Continuing our work on tropical rain forests, we are now focusing specifically on the Amazon. As we find out more about this amazing biome, we will explore how animals and plants adapt to live in this environment and learn about some truly remarkable - and often very dangerous - species. Once we know more about the forest, we will then complete a river study on the Amazon and compare this with other rivers that we have previously learned about. As we learn about the forest, we will also focus on why it might be important for us even though we live so far away! We will investigate the products that are exported from tropical regions and learn why 'Fair Trade' is so important. Finally, we will study deforestation and the devastating consequence that could be felt if alternative solutions are not put in place.



For the first part of this term, we are going to find out all about micro-organisms and whether they are helpful or harmful. The children will have the opportunity to explore the microscopic world that surrounds us and complete their own investigation - just like a real micro-biologist! For the final few weeks, we will learn about evolution, inheritance and adaptation and though links with our geography curriculum, will explore how plants and animals can adapt to extreme environments including tropical forests.



In our art and design work, we will continue to focus on projects that have links to South America and Brazil. Our shelter project is ongoing and we will spend some time on the construction of our designs. We are also going to study the work of some Central and South American artists - Frida Kahlo and Romero Britto. After exploring their work, and the inspiration behind it, we will then attempt our own piece inspired by their images.



The focus of PE this term is tag-rugby with a qualified coach. We will be learning the skills that are required in this sport and playing small sided team games. Our PE sessions are now going to be on a Friday morning so could the children please continue to 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. When the weather complies, 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 continuing to attend forest school lessons. These will now be held every other week but will continue to be on a Tuesday afternoon. Please send wellies and protective clothing 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. Goggles are optional. 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.



This half term, our computing lessons will focus on spreadsheets and the programmes used to create them. We will have the opportunity to collect our own data that we can add to a spread sheet and then use relevant software to produce our own graphs, charts and statistical analysis.



Our topic this term is understanding difference. We will explore our own identity and find out what makes us unique before discussing the importance of accepting everyone for who they are. Linked to our British Values of identity, tolerance and mutual respect, we will learn why it is important to accept differences and how to cope in situations when we find we don't agree with something that might be happening. We will also explore situations where it is important to challenge specific stereotypes such as those associated with gender.



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 continue their work on Christianity as they find out more about Jesus as they explore his life through the gospels. In Spanish, the focus is all about family and being able to talk and write about their own family using appropriate vocabulary. They will also investigate Spanish traditions in the lead up to Christmas. In Music, the children will listen to and appraise various musical styles. They will find out how music can be used to express emotions and how it gives us more of an understanding of the past. In preparation for our first ever Christmas Sing Along, we will also be singing a range of Christmas songs - some traditional and some with a much more modern twist!



Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and is due to be handed in the following Thursday. 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

This is a busy half term and we also have some additional experiences that your child will be part of. Bike ability has already started for Year 6 and will continue for Year 5 pupils in the coming week. On Wednesday 29th November, Class 4 will have the opportunity to visit Hardwick to find complete a workshop about temperate forests in the UK and make comparisons between these habitats and the tropical forests we have been learning about in class. As the workshop is being delivered by staff at Hardwick and because of the rising costs of transport, there will be a small charge for this visit. More details will follow closer to the time.

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