

# Class 4 News - January 2024



## Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and were able to spend time with your families.

This is going to be a very busy and exciting term as we start our new theme. We are going to be learning all about World War 2 and the global impact that it had both then and today.



## English

This half term we are going to be starting *Letters From the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll. Set in 1941, it tells the story of two children who are evacuated from London to the Devonshire coast to stay with a mysterious lighthouse keeper. In addition, to investigating the strange goings-on in their new home, they also have a mystery of their own to solve: a strange coded note that seems to link their sister to something dark and impossibly dangerous. Throughout the half term, we will investigate the settings, characters and plot in the story and look at the techniques used by the author to create an appropriate atmosphere. We will also be completing a number of writing tasks, in a range of genres, that will develop some more complex sentence structures, using appropriate punctuation. We will also discover how to use powerful vocabulary for a specific effect.

## Spelling

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 Year 5/6 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

Reading continues to be a main focus in Class 4 and I am excited for the children to access our new 'Reading Corner' which I am filling with books from a range of genres written by both familiar and new authors. 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 would be grateful if children could start to complete book reviews that we can display to give others suggestions on things that are good to read. 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.

## Maths

As in the previous term we will continue to revise or standard written calculations through daily arithmetic challenges. We will also be starting our work on percentages and find out how this links directly to fractions and decimals. We will also learn how to find percentages of quantities and amounts. Following this, we will move into our geometry unit. Through this we will identify the properties of shapes using the appropriate mathematical vocabulary and then we will have the opportunity to transform shapes, in different ways, on a four-quadrant grid. 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.



## History/Geography

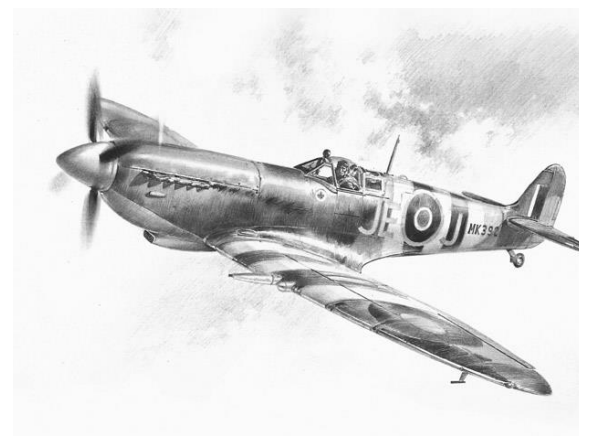
Our theme for this term is World War 2 and we will begin by studying the significant events that led up to this tragic conflict. We will learn some key historical facts including dates, information about the main political leaders and the impact that it had on Britain, particularly in our local area. We will learn about evacuation and understand what it would have been like to be child during the war years. In Geography, we will be learning key facts about the countries that were involved with a particular focus on those in Europe. We will also use a range of maps to investigate how Europe has changed both during the war and as a result of things that have happened since 1945.

## Science

The focus for Spring 1 is electricity and how we can create simple circuits to light a bulb, make a buzzer sound or work a motor. They will investigate how changing variables can alter the component such as increasing brightness. Children will find out to show their results using scientific circuit diagrams. Following their learning, children will also have the opportunity to put their skills to the test as they create their own electrical device to send messages in Morse Code.

## Art/Design Technology

In our art and design work, we are going to be developing our



sketching techniques, with both pencils and charcoal, to create realistic images which indicate both the direction of the light source and give the impression of motion. We will also explore the impact of colour and investigate the way in which it can be used to reflect the mood of a piece or the meaning behind it. Using a range of media such as paint and pastels, we will create our own images for maximum impact.

In DT, the children will have the opportunity to research, design and build their own scale version of an Anderson Shelter. They will be given Specific criteria they have to meet - just like a real designer! They will then have the opportunity to evaluate their work in order to determine how successful they have been.



## PE

Our PE sessions are now going to be on a Tuesday afternoon and a Friday morning so could the children please come to school wearing PE kit on these days. On a Tuesday we will be learning the skills required to play cricket and take part in small sided team games. Our Friday focus will be gymnastics where we will learn how to create shirt routines with a qualified coach. 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 on a Tuesday 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.

## Computing

This half term, our computing lessons will focus on blogging, who writes them and the key factors that make a successful blog. We will then plan a blog of our own, around an agreed theme, and develop the relevant content that we will include. Throughout the unit, the children will be asked to consider the effect upon their audience of changing the visual properties of their blog as well as giving feedback on blogs that they may have read.

## PSHCE

Our topic this term is all about keeping safe in both the real and virtual world. Linked to our work in computing, we will explore how quickly information can be spread on the internet and learn how difficult it is to remove something that has been posted. We will find out what safe and respectful behaviour looks like online and develop strategies to keep ourselves safe. Following this, we will explore what it means to have an addiction and find out which addictions can be harmful to both our physical and mental health. We will explore strategies to identify and break addictions as well as investigating laws that are in place to help keep us safe.





## Other Lessons

Miss Forth will continue to 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 about the environment and the part it plays in a number of different faiths. In Spanish, the children will learn all about animals and they will develop the language required to identify and describe pets. They will also investigate Spanish books and stories and learn to read some of their favourite tales. In Music, the children will explore key and time signatures in a range of musical pieces and they will identify ways in which music can be used to improve the world around them.



## Homework

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 term I am starting an SAT booster breakfast club for the Year 6 pupils on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8am. This will provide an opportunity for the children to revise previously taught skills and ask about anything where they feel they need additional practice.

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.

Kind regards,

Mrs King