

## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2019



Welcome back to St Lawrence School and a new Year 4! We hope you all had a fantastic summer and that your child is eager for a successful year ahead. We are really looking forward to getting to know your children over the next 11 months and have lots of exciting activities and topics planned for them, from pyramids to ice creams! This newsletter will give you an outline of the work we will be covering during the Autumn Term.

If you are able to help with reading, or you have an interesting hobby or experience you would be willing to share with the children, please do let us know.

### English

Year 4 will be studying a range of text types throughout the term including: fantasy narratives based on 'The BFG' and 'The Dreamgiver'; diaries; play-scripts and poetry; as well as creating a range of extended writing linked to our Egyptian topic. In the second half of the term, we will be reading 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and writing a variety of texts based on this wonderful story. We will continue to develop our use of punctuation and sentence structure, making sure the children understand appropriate terminology as well as applying their learning to both short and extended writing tasks. Each week, starter activities will focus on different aspects of the Year 4 grammar, punctuation and spelling expectations. Joined, neat handwriting and presentation will be continually monitored, with children being given pen licences when we feel they are ready. Children will regularly take part in whole class guided reading lessons. There will also be an emphasis on spellings this year, looking at patterns and rules, as well as learning words for a **weekly** assessment. An exciting new online resource, called 'The Spelling Shed' is being launched this year to help support children's spelling in a fun and engaging way.

### Maths

In maths, children continue to gain a deeper understanding of their learning through problem solving and discussion, and by applying their knowledge to a range of contexts. This term we will be concentrating on place value, addition and subtraction, length and perimeter, and multiplication and division. Knowledge of times tables, and related division facts are expected in Year 4, and we use the 'Times Tables Rock Stars' app to encourage children to practise these, as well as providing teaching and support in lessons. Please note that times tables are foundation blocks for all maths learning and, as such, the Government has introduced a year 4 times tables check to be taken in June 2020. We therefore ask for your support by ensuring your children practise regularly. Children should also spend time each week completing tasks on Mathletics. Your child's log in details for both these websites can be found at the front of their home-school contact books.

### Science

In Science children will gain scientific knowledge and skills through practical investigations. The topics for this term will be 'States of Matter' and 'Teeth and Eating.' Wherever possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to learn through practical investigations and projects.

### Music

The children will enjoy music lessons with a balance of listening, composing, performing and appraising, using the 'Music Express' programme of study.

All pupils will also take part in the rehearsals and performances of our Christmas production.



### Topic - History

Pupils will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians throughout this term. We are looking forward to learning about this fascinating era in history. We will be investigating many aspects of Ancient Egypt, including how people lived and died, and by retracing Howard Carter's steps as he makes one of the most important discoveries of all time!

### Computing

Pupils will be developing their knowledge of coding, using the Espresso coding website. This will give them the opportunity to read and write programmes for a range of tasks and games.

## PE

This term, Merlins will be swimming on Friday mornings. This will take the place of their indoor PE lesson. Ospreys will also have a PE lesson on a Friday morning, when they will be doing athletics and indoor cricket skills. Both classes have outdoor PE on Wednesday afternoons when they will be initially playing tennis in Autumn 1, followed by football after half term. This half term, the children will also be learning basketball skills with Mr Paddington on a Monday. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school and is able to **remove any earrings by themselves** for PE lessons.

## MFL (French)

We will continue to build upon the vocabulary introduced in Year 3, using the Rigolo programme which uses a range of techniques to help children learn and apply their learning in a fun, interactive way.

## R.E

In the first half term, pupils will be exploring the Hindu faith including a visit to a Hindu temple on **Wednesday 2nd October**. We will then continue exploring aspects of the Christian faith before preparing for Christmas.



## DT and Art

In the first half term, we will be creating art inspired by the impressionist painters. The children will be finding out about the artists and their work, as well as practising with the paints and ways they used. After half term, children will be taught sewing techniques to create a Christmas decoration.

## Homework

In addition to daily reading, times tables, mathematics and spelling practise, children may be given a homework project based on an element of the curriculum. Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and will be due back on a Monday, unless stated otherwise. Children have been given an A4 homework book and, where possible, tasks will be available on the VLE. Occasionally, children may also be given work to support their individual needs.

## Life Skills (PSHE)

In Year 4, we consider a range of topics related to settling in, creating a class charter, building good relationships and a supportive community. We also investigate British Values and how they are part of our daily lives.

## Reminders

- All equipment, including PE kit, must be named.
- Please ensure your child has the correct writing equipment for school, kept in a sensible pencil case.
- Please ensure your child reads daily and that they bring their signed Home-School Book to school every day. This book can be used to send messages to your child's teacher (not information for the office).
- Bring in a labelled water bottle, even on cooler days.
- Both classes will swim at Hurst Park swimming pool for a term each. Merlins will swim this term, and Ospreys in the spring term. **They will need to wear a swimming hat for these lessons. If you can help us walk the children to and from the pool, please let the office know.**
- No toys or novelty items in school, as these can cause distraction and often cause unnecessary upset if lost or broken.
- Summer uniform may be worn until half-term. Long hair (shoulder length or longer) is to be tied back.
- Please check the VLE (It's Learning) regularly for information and updates.

## Weekly Diary

Monday	Homework due in PE with Mr Paddington (Autumn1)
Wednesday	Homework given out Outdoor PE
Thursday	Spelling assessment
Friday	Merlins - swimming Osprey - indoor PE

## Key dates:

2nd October - Bhaktivedanta Manor trip  
11<sup>th</sup> October - Merlin's Class Assembly  
18<sup>th</sup> October - Ancient Egyptian Day  
4<sup>th</sup> November - School Inset  
12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> November - Parents Evening  
w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec - Year 4 Christmas Production  
w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (tbc) - Year 4 Theatre trip

**We are really looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide a fun, fulfilling and exciting Year 4 at St Lawrence. We would like to thank you for your continued support this coming term, especially with swimming. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.**

**Mrs Searle (Merlins) and Mr Hall (Ospreys)**

