

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to see the children are revitalised after their Christmas break and are back enthusiastic to learn! If you have any questions, as always, please come and speak to us.

Science

In Science this term, we will be looking at States of Matter. We will be learning about the properties of solids, liquids and gases. To extend this learning at home, you can ask/ your child to think about what happens when you freeze water or take ice cream out of a freezer.

Art

This term we will be having a go at improving mastery of art and design techniques through sculpting with clay. At home you can be having a look at different items around the home that could be made out of some sort of clay.

PE

Year 4- PE is on Wednesday.

Your child will need a yellow top with black shorts or trousers and trainers.

Year 4 will be continuing to develop their group skills within different games - this term it will be focussed on net/wall games, e.g. volleyball and dodgeball.

History

This term we are starting our new topic: Crime and Punishment, where we will look at how crime and punishment has changed over time.

To support your child at home, you can help them research old laws.

Spring 1 in Year 4

Mathematics

This half-term, we will start with a focus on addition and then move on to looking at subtraction. We will be looking at how to use formal written methods when adding and subtracting up to 4 digit numbers.

As always, please encourage your child to continue to use SumDog to practice their Maths skills. Remember, this can be accessed outside of school on computers and tablets.

Computing

This term, Year 4 will be programming using Lego WeDo and using a programme called 'Scratch' on the computer. We will be learning to debug our own code, to work out what might have gone wrong, why and how we can fix it.

Music

Year 4 will be continuing their experiences of playing different instruments. Year 4 will be learning to play TooTs (beginner flutes) and Ukuleles this term.

English

In English this half term, we will be reading 'How to train your dragon'. As a class, we will use this to inspire us to write poetry and vivid descriptions— concentrating on fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We will also be writing explanation texts to help others look after their own dragons!

We concentrate on the presentation of our work in Year 4, including the layout of our page and writing cursively on the line. It will really help your child if you could work with them at home on their handwriting to embed the cursive expectations.

How can I help my child at home?



Websites

There are lots of fun games to help with our learning on the internet, that can be accessed on a tablet or home computer.

Useful websites:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/physical_processes/sound/read/1/

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/writing>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=47>

Don't forget your child can use **Sumdog** at home! **www.sumdog.co.uk** - student logins can be found in the front cover of their homework books. We will use this site to set homework as well which will be indicated that week by a slip in their homework book.

It is an expectation that children in Year 4 should know all of their times tables up to 12 and Sumdog is a great way to help them get there.

Home Help!

Reading and Book Talk:

Reading is an important part of learning and developing children's vocabulary and language skills, therefore we encourage you to read with your child at home. It provides a great opportunity for you and your child to talk, and share ideas and thoughts about what they have read.

We want children to be happy and enthusiastic readers, and hope that children are able to read a variety of genres to broaden their reading experiences. Please don't forget, whenever you read at home your child should fill in a section of their Reading Booklet. As well as home-school reading books, anything that children read can count towards entries on the card. We would love to see the amount of booklets we receive increase this term.

Handwriting and Presentation:

Handwriting is still a focus and it is important that children learn how to write cursively and present their writing clearly. To help with the teaching of this in school, we encourage you to help your child practise their handwriting at home. All children must have joined handwriting and have clear ascenders and descenders in their writing.

Homework, home-reading and library books

Homework alternates between English and Maths, supporting the work that we have been doing in class. It is sent out on Monday in their homework books and is to come back into school by the Friday of that week. Spelling tests and Mountain Challenge (times tables tests) will be every Friday.

Home school reading books need to be in your child's bag ready to be changed on Library day which for Year 4 is a **Friday**.

If you would like to volunteer to read with children at home. Please let your child's teacher know.