

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Science

In Science this term, the topic we are looking at is 'Sound'. We will be focusing on how sound is made, how sound travels, and pitch and volume (how we can change this on instruments).

Our learning for this topic will also include looking at how we use our ears to hear.

Mathematics

This half-term, we will start with a focus on division, working through a range of different methods - from arrays through to the formal written method of bus stop including remainders, developing an understanding of what remainders are.

As always, please encourage your child to continue to use SumDog, which can be accessed outside of school on computers and iPads.

Art

This term we will be having a go at using Chinese-style brush painting. We will be looking at some possible brush technique and using a wash effectively.

PE

PE will be **every Friday**. Your child will need a gold 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 invasion games, e.g. hockey.

Geography

This term we are starting our new topic of 'China'.

We will be looking at features of the vibrant culture of China and, using atlases, we will be developing our map skills to locate where China is on a map.



Computing

This term, Year 4 will be programming using programmable bots 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 the In2music project this term, with a focus on pentatonic scales. Children will be also be able to take their instruments home this term.

English

As a class, this term in English we will be reading the narrative 'A Firework Maker's Daughter' (by Philip Pullman), which will be the stimulus for many of our activities. We will be looking at letter writing and advert creations, to incorporate TV and magazine adverts, to promote our firework designs. This will help us to develop our knowledge of the features of letter writing and in advertisement.

To help your child with these genres of writing, try to expose them to different types of advertisement (e.g. on TV, in a magazine, on the internet, by the road) and talk about what makes them good/bad adverts and why?

How can I help my child at home?



Websites

<https://www.sumdog.com/user/> - Great for maths practice and times tables. Homework will be set on this occasionally.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> - Variety of quick fire maths games.

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html> - fun games for spelling reminders and simple spelling rules linking to phonics.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr> - fun touch typing game!

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0> - children will use active learn for homework.

We will be using Abacus Evolve (Active Learn) and Sumdog to set homework from time to time.

Games you can play with them:

Times tables:

Quick-fire questions (multiplication and division)

Using the flash cards from your child's Mountain Challenge to test their quick recall.

Give an answer, what is the question? ($15 = 3 \times 5$)

Talk about numbers:

Ask your child to read numbers - up to 4-digits.

Reading advice

Read, read, read!

Please continue to make sure your child reads daily. They don't have to read to an adult every day, but they should still read.

Reading helps develop their vocabulary and imagination. It also helps improve their writing and concentration skills, in addition to calming them down at bedtime!

Your child will continue to have a home-reading book and library books, as usual. They can also, of course, read any other books, comics, or magazines that you might have at home!

Encourage them also to use their reading in everyday contexts - have a go at reading signs or notices that you may pass when you are out and about.

Talk about books:

Try to read to/with your child often. Discuss the illustrations, the characters, the language used by the writer, whether you like the book and why. (If you're unsure of what exactly to ask, use the example questions on the bookmark you were given at parents evening as a prompt.)

Remember you can borrow books from your local library and it is totally free!

Homework, home-reading and library books

Homework alternates each week between English and Maths, supporting the work that we have been doing in class. It is sent out on a Monday in their homework books and is to come back in by the Friday of that week, when children will buddy-mark their work.

Home-reading books will be changed on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

Library books need to be in your child's bag ready to be changed on Library day (Y4H: Tuesday, Y4T: Wednesday)

Children need their kit in for PE every week on a Friday.

