

Class 4 Curriculum Update

November 2019



Values: Fairness and understanding

A moment in time...

Using drama to deepen our understanding of History has been an excellent way to engage your children and as a result their writing has been excellent. We have done monologues in the role of Boudicca, used freeze frames to explore Romulus and Remus, acted out scenes from the Tudors timeline and used conscious alley to think about Henry VIII's life choices.

For the next half term we will be linking the drama we do to storytelling and writing. We will think about traditional tales, spooky stories and think about aiming our writing at a range of different audiences.



Homework

The children will continue to receive the same weekly homework: TT Rockstars, reading for a minimum of 15 minutes per day, Spelling Shed and continue to learn the year 3/4 common exception words. Occasionally, the children may receive a little task linked to their theme, for example: completing class work or to research something in preparation for a future lesson. It will be the children's responsibility to share this with you.

Dates for the diary:

Class assembly: TBC. Apologies we had to change this date for the school photos.

Pantomime visit: 10th December 2019. Further details will be sent via Parent Mail.

Friday mornings

The rota for a Friday morning Forest School is as follows:

8 th Nov	15 th Nov	22 nd Nov	29 th Nov	6 th Dec	13 th Dec
Group 3	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 1	Group 2

The other groups will be doing Hockey and Maths.

The children know if they are in Group 1, 2 or 3 and a Parent Mail has been sent.

When the children have Forest School, please could they come to school in appropriate old clothes and bring wellies (wellies these can be left in school at all times for use on the bark path).

Forest School

In addition to our Friday morning Forest School, we have had six additional mornings with each session focused on the following areas: tree and plant identification; woodland habitats; habitat creation; woodland management and managing risks. The sessions have been led by a representative from the Royal Forestry Society. The Tuesday mornings sessions have been quite wet but the children have all been very enthusiastic and are learning so much about the Forest with excellent links to Science. It will benefit them greatly when it comes to sharing with the rest of the school because in the Spring Term the children will become Forest School Leaders at breaktimes. The children were very proud when receiving their Young Foresters badges this week and their certificates will follow.



Family Festival at the Courtyard

The Family Festival is a regular event held at the Courtyard to showcase all they have to offer.

This year the theme was animals and Year 4 pupils played a great part in the event. We have based our art work around the Forest and our final pieces were on display in the Courtyard for all to see. We also took part in a workshop to make willow birds that were also used at the festival and will also be used in the Spring Term when the River Carnival returns.



Maths

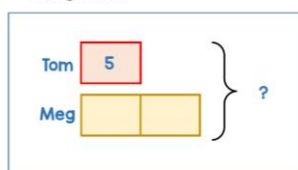
In maths, we have been learning how to use formal written methods for addition and subtraction but this month we will also be doing the Barvember Challenge. Using a bar model to solve problems helps the children to visualise the question because it provides a pictorial representation of the numbers they are working with. Here is an example of one we have done - ask your child to explain this method to you and see what they remember.

1 Tom has 5 apples.



Meg has twice as many apples as Tom.

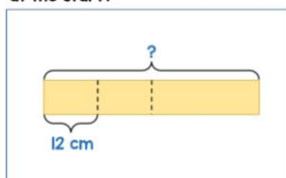
How many apples do they have altogether?



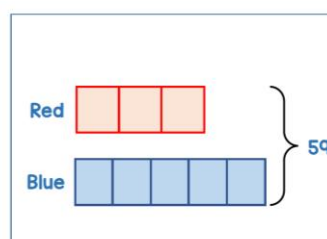
2

A strip of paper is cut in half. The strip is then cut in half again. The length of the piece left is 12 cm.

How long was the strip of paper at the start?



3 The total weight of 3 red and 5 blue boxes is 59 kg. Each red box weighs 8 kg. How much does a blue box weigh?



40 Reads

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

Science

Your children have been really enjoying Science especially the practical activities that we have planned. Our Forest School visits have covered lots of science but in the classroom we have also explored solids, liquids and gases.

We would like to try something new and therefore the class bear, Bennie Bear, will be coming home and hopefully carrying out some science of his own with your child and you!

More information to be sent soon... we really hope this is something you can get involved in.



Thank you for your attendance at parents evening. It was lovely to meet you all and share the successes your child has had already in Year 4 but as always if you or your child have any concerns at any point please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment to discuss this further.

Mrs Lee and the Year 4 team