



Year 4 Autumn Term Newsletter

September 2021



Hello and welcome to Year 4! We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer holidays with your child and are feeling positive about the year ahead for them. It is our aim as a Year 4 team to ensure that your child makes good academic progress which we will achieve with our exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. Most importantly, we hope that your child will continue to gain confidence in their abilities, develop life-long social skills and generally enjoy learning!

The Year 4 team this year will be:

- Miss Skelley (teaching 4S)
- Miss Turner (teaching 4T)
- Mrs. Adams (general Year 4 TA)
- Mrs. Brown (1:1 TA)
- Mrs. Burr (1:1 TA)
- Mrs. Fairfowl (1:1 TA)

What will your child need to bring to school each day?

Compulsory	Optional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X1 bookbag (Atwood or non-branded) • X1 named coat (in colder months) • X1 named water bottle • Yellow reading diary • Coloured banded reading book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small pencil case of basic items • Snack for morning break (to be put in their bookbag) • Packet of tissues • Hand sanitiser

Our PE days are **Mondays and Tuesdays**. On these days, your child **must come into school wearing their PE kit**. They do not need to wear school uniform on these days.

RE and Music will continue to be taught on Thursday mornings by Mrs. Swaysland and Mr. Beaumont.

If your child is going to be collected by another parent or carer (different to who they usually get collected by), then please let the office know. In addition to this, a sibling may collect if they are over the age of 14 but please do let the school office know in advance. Please note, that in the interest of your child's safety, we will not let your child go without any of the above being permitted through the school office first.

What will your child be learning this term?

Home learning will be **set on a Friday and due on a Thursday**. All home learning will be communicated via Google Classroom and in your child's yellow reading diary.

- 20 minutes of Garage on *Times Tables Rockstars*.
- 20 minutes of Studio on *Times Tables Rockstars*.
- 10-15-minute reading sessions, 5 times a week. Please sign and date each time your child reads as we will be checking every Thursday.
- 6 spelling words. In order to 'pass', your child will be expected to spell these words correctly in a sentence dictated to them, hence the smaller number of words than last year!
- A writing or mathematics activity.

Please note- Adaptations which will be made for those children who require this additional support. If home learning is not completed, we will invite your child to attend lunchtime catch up sessions in order to support them with their learning.

English

Each English unit will last for approximately 3 weeks. Each unit will typically focus around one text and a grammar focus. This half term, we will be using art, particularly cave paintings, to write poetry using expanded noun phrases. We will be revising basic past and present tense through recount writing of our trip to Butser Farm. Then, we will aim to finish the half term by writing prehistoric themed explanation texts with a focus on fronted adverbials. However, we may change our grammar focuses depending on the needs of the children at the time.

Mathematics

This half term, the children will be introduced to 4-digit numbers up to 10,000. Of course, the beauty of mathematical patterns means we can revisit smaller numbers that some children may not have quite mastered in previous years! By Christmas, your child will be able to identify how many thousands, hundreds, tens and ones a number has. They will revisit the column method for addition and subtraction and be confident in using this method for solving many problems, including those involving money, length, height, weight and statistics.

Science

In the first half term, the children will be studying 'States of Matter' (Solids, liquids and gases.) They will be able to define these three terms and identify everyday examples of them. In addition to this, they will study the water cycle with a particular focus on evaporation and condensation. The children will continue to work scientifically by designing, setting up and carrying out simple and fair experiments, using data loggers and thermometers and use their results to help them answer scientific questions. In the second half term, the children will go onto to study electricity where they will construct simple electrical circuits, identify and describe the common components in an electrical circuit and define the terms 'conductor' and 'insulator'.

History

The children will begin the year by studying some of our oldest history in this country, Prehistoric Britain! They will learn to appreciate the vital role that archaeologists play in helping us learn about the past, understand that people may not have communicated in the same way as we do and study the changes that occurred in use of tools and housing through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children will then briefly look at the Mayan Civilization and how it compared to life in Prehistoric Britain. We will enrich your child's learning with a trip to Butser Farm and a virtual workshop delivered by the British Museum.

Geography

The children will strengthen their knowledge of Europe and be able to identify and name some common European countries.

Art

Our art will link closely with history this term. The children will explore colour mixing and use of different types of lines, mainly using charcoal and graphite, to eventually form a whole year group cave painting. In the latter part of the term, the children will be designing, creating and using stamps to print on fabric.

Design and Technology

The children will start the half term off by looking at shell structures and nets, with a view to then moving onto designing, making and evaluating their own Iron Age roundhouses. In the second half term, the children will be connecting their learning of electricity in science to create a working model of Iron Man!

Computing

Technology is a feature in so many of our lessons above, particularly when it comes to E-safety and research skills. However, we will also be looking at Wikipedia in more detail, particularly the strengths and drawbacks of using a website that can be edited by anyone in the world. The children will explore the features of a typical Wiki page and then plan and design their own Wiki page with a Prehistoric theme!

Spanish

We will be recapping the vocabulary learnt last year, particularly numbers 0-20. We will then move rapidly onto learning to read, write and say numbers to 40 by Christmas. The children will also be able to introduce themselves and describe members of their family. All lessons will be focused on building the children's reading, writing and speaking skills.

PE

PE will take place outdoor once a week (on Mondays) and indoor once a week (on Tuesdays). Outdoor sessions will focus on football, particularly dribbling, passing and shooting. Indoor sessions will be dance themed, exploring different types of movement to portray a Prehistoric scene and building up to performing a dance with five separate movements. The children will also learn to develop their collaboration and confidence skills in these lessons.

PSHE

A big theme for us, at Atwood, this term will be on 'Diversity'- one of our 5 British Values. We will be getting the children to think about the meaning of diversity and celebrating the diversity among the children in Year 4. To link with our learning on cave paintings, we will be creating a whole year group cave painting where each child will create a picture to represent themselves.

RSE

We will be spending some time every other week to explore some important topics relevant to the children in our Year 4 cohort this year. This includes bereavement, different types of families including marriage and building upon their current level of understanding of healthy eating and balanced diets.

RE

The first half term will be focusing on the religion of Judaism, with a focus on authority figures and worship. In the second half term, the children will look at lifestyle and celebration in Judaism. In addition to this, the children will build upon their knowledge of the Christian events: Harvest and Christmas.

Music

The children will start the half term with an introduction to playing the guitar. Budding guitarists in the year group already, will be challenged with more complex playing patterns and reading sheet music. Also, the children will explore body percussion!

Thank you in advance for your support with your child's learning this half term.

The Year 4 Team