



## Spring Term 1 in Year 4



### School Uniform

All children should wear the correct school uniform and school shoes. If they are not, the class teacher will mention to parents at the end of the day.

No jewellery is permitted other than stud earrings on non-PE days. Watches are permitted in Key Stage 2, but we ask that they be analogue.

Shoulder-length hair – or longer – needs to be tied back with a hairband.

### PE Kit

Your child's PE lessons will be on Thursday.

Please make sure they come to school PE ready, wearing the correct kit. Details about the school's PE kit can be found on our website.

### Homework

Spellings will be set and tested on a Tuesday; and times tables tests will continue to be set and completed on Fridays.

Homework will be set on a Friday and can be returned by the following Friday. This is likely to be revision on punctuation and grammar rules from the Year 3 and 4 curriculum.

In addition, children should read at least 20 minutes at home every day. Please make a note what your child reads in their Reading Record.

All homework will be available on Showbie in the 'Homework' Folder.

### How to help your child at home

- When reading with your child, please question them on what they have read! Ask them if they can define any unusual or tricky words, get them to give you a reminder of what has happened before you start reading and then ask them to summarise what has happened after they finish reading. All of this supports their understanding and comprehension of the text.
- Continue to work on all times tables. Up to now, we have spent time revising the 2, 5, 10 (year 2 objectives) and 3, 4 and 8 times tables (Year 3 objectives). If your children aren't secure with these—at speed—please make time to practise these. I have put a list of links on Showbie to games they can play online... but there are also a number of apps that you can use; perfect for keeping them quiet on car journeys if you have mobile devices.
- Please ask your children questions related to telling the time. Practise makes permanent; and as adults we are very used to working the time out for our children because it's often quicker and easier than trying to get them to do it! Ask them, over and over, "what is the time?" and if you can, get them to explain how they know they are correct.

## English

In English this term, Class 4 will base their learning on myths and legends and, where possible, linked to the topic of Anglo Saxons and Vikings. To support their writing and understanding of myths and legends, Class 4 will study '*Arthur and the Golden Rope*' by Todd Stanton, and '*Beowulf*' retold by Rob Lloyd Jones. Through these books, they will explore the language and structures used by the author and apply it to their own work. In addition, during daily focused reading comprehension time, the children will read and answer questions about a variety of myths and legends from other cultures and eras, eventually creating a checklist of key features.

**Note on spellings:** We are going over some spelling rules from KS1. We are still securing some of the foundations - and spelling is an area that needs a little more attention this term. Children are generally great at learning spellings, but we do need to revise some spelling rules to ensure that our spelling supports our independent writing.

## Maths

In Maths this term, we will be taking on two tricky topics: fractions and time.

After revising previous learning on fractions, we will explore different representations of fractions, develop our understanding of equivalent fractions, and begin to calculate with mixed numbers and improper fractions— a solid understanding of times tables is key to this.

We will then move on to telling the time using 12-hour, 24-hour, analogue and digital clocks. Children in Year 4 should be able to tell the time to the nearest minute.

There is a question sheet on Showbie of questions related to time for parents who wish to support their child's learning in class.

## Topic

This term we will be finishing off our Romans Topic and moving onto learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings!



We will start by looking at the Roman withdrawal from Britain. We will make models of Saxon, homes, jewellery and weaponry and carefully carve runes using clay tools and learn about the everyday lives of the Saxons and Vikings. Using maps, we will identify the places where the invaders came from and locate Viking invasion sites. We will research Viking beliefs and art and use this as a muse in art lessons to create anime style Viking portraits and create collages of Scandinavian landscapes.

## RHE

### **How can we manage our feelings?**

We will be encouraging the children to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about feelings. We will explore how to judge whether what we are feeling and how we are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.

## RE

The focus in RE will be on the Trinity: Christians believe the Father creates; he sends the Son who saves his people; the Son sends the Holy Spirit to his followers. We will discuss how Jesus, the Son of God, is seen by Christians as revealing what God the Father is like.

## Music

Children will continue to have violin lessons with Mr Stelios! We are really beginning to make good progress here. Watch this space as a small recital will be coming your way soon!

## Drama and Dance

This term we will focus on '*The Day I Fell Into A Fairytale*' a book that weaves traditional stories into a modern tale. We will use this as a stimulus for both dance and drama. We will explore the characters, themes, storylines and settings using improvisation exercises and choreographic devices.

## French

Two foci this term, which will be regularly revisited in coming months: 1) talking about ourselves and being able to name family members and where we live; 2) numbers to 100.

## PE

It is gymnastics this term: body management, floor exercises, and vaulting. Not a roly poly in sight!

## Did you know ...

In addition to Dublin, the Irish cities of Wexford, Waterford, Cork and Limerick also began as Viking settlements.