Dear Class 4 Parents, Friday 25th September 2020

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. Firstly, it has been wonderful to finally have a whole class together again and to see the children’s smiley faces. I hope you managed to have a well-deserved rest over the summer, even though it may have been different to what we all expected.

I must say, it has also been fantastic to see the children settle back into school life again and have such resilience and maturity when dealing with all the new safety measures we now have in school. I have been so impressed with the children’s positive attitude and support for one another to help keep everyone happy and safe within our classroom.

Due to exceptional circumstances, we have had to make some changes to our curriculum for the term. However, we are still planning to learn about lots of new and exciting topics, and this term our whole school topic is called ‘Here we are.’ For the term, Class 4 will be learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings who invaded and chose to settle in Britain.

Alongside the exciting topic this term, the children will also be participating in lots of fun activities across the curriculum. Below is an overview of the areas we will be focusing on this term:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Maths**  This term we will be focusing on the Mathematical areas of:   * Place value * The four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division * Fractions   Children are encouraged to continue to practise their individual times tables in school and at home. | **English**  This term we are going to be reading Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo within our English lessons and will be writing an explanation text for ‘How to fight a monster.’ The children will also be writing their own short story inspired by the story of Beowulf.  We will also be learning about different Norse Gods and Viking sags, and have a go at writing our own version. | **Science**  This term’s science unit is Forces. Within our science lessons, the children will be planning, investigating and learning about a range of forces including gravity, balanced and unbalanced forces, water resistance, air resistance and levers and pulleys. |
| **Topic/Art/D.T**  Within our topic lessons the children will learn about the invasion of the Anglo-saxons and Vikings on Britain. We will also be learning about significant historical figures in both time periods, how they travelled to Britain and what their daily life was like.  Art/D.T. activities will be incorporated within our topic lessons and the children will be creating their own artwork inspired by the Viking long ships. | **Computing/E-safety lessons**  During Class 4’s Live, Learn and Flourish week the class revised and discussed different ways we can stay safe online, this included understanding how to create a ‘safe and secure’ password. We also spoke about digital citizen and discussed the methods we can use to stay safe when using technical equipment in school.  This term the children will also be learning how to code on purple mash. | **PE**  P.E. lessons will be slightly different this term, the children will be participating in non-contact PE lessons which will include orienteering and athletics.  To keep the children active over the week, the class will also participate in a range of whole class activities including active ten/ and Jumpstart Jonny (which is similar to wake and shake). |
| **PSHCE**  For Class 4’s PSHCE lessons, I will be using the book ‘Here we are’ by Oliver Jeffers as a stimulus to discuss various topics focused on pupil’s wellbeing and emotions, including exploring the concept of what makes our planet and how we live on it. | **Live, Learn, Flourish week**  During our Live, Learn and Flourish week, we discussed in class our goals and ambitions for this year and the importance of classroom rules to keep everyone safe.  Towards the end of the week, we also started to learn about our new topic ‘Here we are’ and had a go at weaving and creating our own riddles and poems during our topic wow day. | **R.E./Worship**  This term’s school value is ‘hope.’ Worships for this term will take place within the classroom and will be supported with interactive sessions from I-sing pop. Celebration worship will be on a Monday within the classroom. This term’s RE unit is Creation and will be taught by Mrs Delrosa on a Wednesday afternoon. |

**My Special thing**

On a Friday, Children in Class 4 will be participating in ‘My Special Thing’. My special thing is a Year 5 and 6 privilege and a fantastic opportunity for each member of the class to present and talk about something that interests them. Every child in the class has been given a date for their presentations for over the year (letters were sent out at the start of the term) and I am very much looking forward to seeing the variety of interests Class 4 have. Just a reminder, unfortunately the children will not be able to share any items (if brought in) with the other members of the class. If you have any questions regarding your child’s ‘My Special Thing’ please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Homework**

**Homework topic webs**

In Class 4, the children are encouraged to complete both the homework topic web as well as their weekly spelling homework each term. The homework topic web is linked to all areas of the curriculum and each piece of homework encourages a skill relating to ‘research’, ‘make’, ‘apply’ or ‘practice’. The children in Class 4 also play an active role in discussing and choosing a range of homework activities they would like to complete relating to our topics. We do ask for children to try and complete a range of homework pieces across a range of subject areas. As mentioned on the homework topic maps, all homework will now need to be received digitally and can be sent to the Class 4 email account, which will be open for the week beginning 23rd November. 5 team points will be awarded to every task completed and the homework will be shared and celebrated within the class once all the homework has been received.

**Weekly spelling homework**

As part of their spelling lessons in school, the children will receive a weekly spelling homework to complete at home. The homework will involve the children exploring a spelling pattern by researching and finding words linked to the pattern and applying and using the words correctly within sentences. There will also be an opportunity for the children to complete an ‘application task’ (if they would like to challenge their learning even more) which will involve the children applying the words to a longer piece of writing such as a diary entry or newspaper report. Team points will be awarded to each task the children complete. Children are required to hand in their homework on Monday morning and any tasks completed will receive team points. On the Monday morning, the children will also have a spelling test linked to the spelling pattern they have been researching. Overall, the weekly spelling homework will provide the children with more independence with learning a spelling pattern and a greater understanding of exploring the meaning of words.

Alongside the homework set in school, we ask children to continue to read at home regularly, use Mathletics to encourage Maths practice and to keep practicing their times tables. Individual times table practise cards were sent out at the start of the term, if you require another copy please do not hesitate to ask. Rainbow Maths sheets are also now available on the school website or please feel free to ask for some, including the answer sheets if you need them.

After such a long time spent away from school, I am very much looking forward to having the class learning and enjoying time together again and working together to form a support network for your child’s learning both inside and outside of school.

Kind regards

Miss Walker

