

Year 4 Newsletter

22nd February 2018

Welcome back! We hope you have had a relaxing break and are ready for the half term ahead. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for our new Tudor topic, including our upcoming visit to Gainsborough Old Hall.

Topic

This half term our topic 'Around the World' will come to an end and we will begin our new topic 'Off With Her Head'. Over the coming weeks we will learn about the start of the Tudor era, beginning with the Battle of Bosworth. We will then progress on to learning about Henry VIII and his six wives. This will enable the children to gain a better understanding of British history and the British monarchy.

Maths

We will be focusing on embedding previous learning in maths. This will involve a lot of work around our number system, including place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As well as number based mathematics we will also cover other mathematical concepts such as area and perimeter, measure and roman numerals. We aim to work towards mastery in maths which will involve fluency, reasoning, and problem solving. We are particularly keen on developing verbal reasoning so that the children are able to explain how and why they solved a problem in a particular way.

Writing

Our focus is letter writing and other non-fiction genres. The children will use the text 'The Lost Diary of King Henry VIII's Executioner' to develop their historical knowledge which will enable them to write from another person's point of view. We plan to write letters from Henry VIII to his second wife, Anne Boleyn and from her to him pleading her innocence. We will then progress on to invitations and newspaper reports. We also intend to link poetry with our topic by learning about William Shakespeare's love poems.

Spelling

We continue to emphasise the importance of spelling in year 4. Spelling is taught throughout English and Grammar lessons but we would be grateful if you could support us with this at home. It is expected that by July, year 4 children will be able to spell all words on the year 3/4 spelling list. Whilst most children are working hard to learn to spell these words, they are still not entirely secure. You may wish to practice the spellings using sentences, a pneumonic, drawing a picture around the word or by finding out the meaning. If you would like any further ideas or another copy of the list please feel free to ask.

Science

We are delighted to tell you that our recent visit to Ewden Water Treatment Works was a huge success. The children were able to learn all about the water cycle, how water is cleaned and the importance of saving water. Year 4 were very surprised to learn that not everyone is as fortunate as them and many children have to walk for miles to collect water. This inspired them to write a letter to Yorkshire Water to thank them for everything that they do. This half term we will finish our water topic and progress on to our new one, which is sound. The children will learn how sounds are made, how they travel and how volume and pitch are changed. They will also have the opportunity to make their own musical instruments.

PE

PE will continue to take place on a Friday. Please be aware that PE sessions will be outside as the weather improves. Therefore, it is important that your child has their kit in school every week including a pair of trainers. A polite reminder that kit consists of a plain white or blue t- shirt and navy blue or black shorts. Children can also wear a plain navy or black zipped top without a hood and plain bottoms or a plain dark tracksuit.

Musical Production

As you will be aware, year four are performing the musical 'Olivier' at Armthorpe Academy on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th April. There will be three performances over the two days and in the coming weeks we will be sending out invitations so that you can select tickets for the performance that you would like to attend. At present, the songs included in the show are available on the school website, under the year four section. We have done this so that the children can familiarise themselves with the lyrics and squeeze in some extra practice at home! We apologise in advance for any noise disruption in your home!

Family Homework

Family homework this half term is to create a Tudor style house. In our first topic we were overwhelmed by the quality of the homework we received, however our last one was not responded to as well. Therefore, we would very much appreciate it if you could spend some time with your child to have a go this half term. Try to be as imaginative as possible, we love to see a variety! You may find it useful to use old shoe boxes and other recycling to create the structure. We would like to see as many 3D models as possible but if you are not able to do so you may like to draw or paint a house. If you require any paper, card or other resources please just ask. We would like to remind you that we have a limited amount of space for display purposes so please be mindful of this when completing the project. **We ask that you bring your completed homework into school by Friday 23rd March.**



Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Davies and Miss Wood