



Holdbrook Primary and Nursery School

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term - 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

English

- This term we are studying *Varjak Paw* - a tale of danger, intrigue, self-discovery and adventure! Descriptive language and being able to produce work 'in character' will be part of the focus as well as the usual prioritising of good spelling and grammar.
- In addition to our class novel, we will be reading a range of other texts, including short stories, poems and non-fiction as part of our work in English and other subjects. These will be reflected in the range of writing that children produce.
- Pupils are always encouraged to proof read their work to identify and correct basic errors in spelling and punctuation, e.g. capital letters to begin sentences and proper nouns.
- There is focus this term on drawing inference from text and images; pupils will be encouraged to use this to develop their own writing skills.



Mathematics



- We will continue to focus on increasing familiarity with times tables and speed of recall.
- Pupils will learn how to apply the skills they learn to real life problem solving.
- We will investigate the effect of multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000; with particular focus on understanding place value and applying this knowledge in other areas of mathematics.
- Children will be delving further into numbers beyond 1000, negative numbers, fractions and decimals.

Topic

Our topic this term has a Design & Technology focus. Pupils will be learning about cooking with a particular focus on nutrition and healthy eating - making informed choices about food. There will also be a practical focus on planning and preparing meals, including budgeting costs. Please give us any necessary updates if your child has developed an allergy. There is a cross-curricular link here with Maths where we are looking at weight and conversions.



Science



Our science topic this term will focus on animals and habitats. Pupils will learn about different environments, what animals need to survive and man's impact on these environments; including looking at positive initiatives such as recycling.

Religious Education

We will be looking at Sikhism this term, with particular focus on *belonging*. Also the children will be finding out about sharing food as part of Religious Worship.



Physical Education

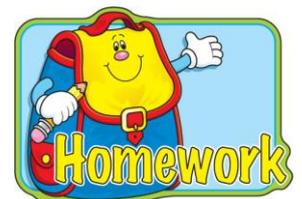


In PE we will be building a variety of skills and the children will also continue to go swimming every Tuesday for the first half-term. It is important that pupils have the correct kit for all PE sessions and that earrings are not worn to school or are covered on days the children have PE.

In addition, the children will be participating in Spanish lessons and we will be finding out about Chinese New Year.

Homework

- Please encourage your child to read every night. Please listen to your child reading aloud daily.
- Each week children will take home spellings. These words are specific 'must knows' and examples of the spelling rule that we are focusing on in class that week. Discuss the word meanings and spelling rules at home and encourage your child to learn them.
- Each week your child will be given times tables or other mental maths facts and to learn. Please encourage them to learn to recall these with increasing speed.
- Written mathematics and English homework is sent home each Friday. The purpose of this is to consolidate learning. It is due back the following Wednesday.
- Computer based activities are available on Education City. Maths Whizz automatically tailors weekly lessons to each child's individual needs. Both of these are very useful learning tools so please encourage your child to use them at home or in the local library.



Kind regards.

Mrs Burrows.