



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

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Year 4 Class

Autumn Newsletter

Dear Families of Year 4,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for another year of adventures in Year 4. I am delighted to be teaching at Birchwood Avenue for another year and I look forward to getting to know you all as the year progresses. There are lots to look forward to this Autumn Term, as the start of our new learning journey. Our learning value of the month will be 'resilience' where children will begin to understand the importance of continuing to try hard and put in effort when things become challenging. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour and this is reflected in our work.

PE

Our **PE** days are **Monday** and **Thursday**. Children will be expected to bring in the correct PE uniform (bearing the weather in mind) and changing independently at school. We advise that children wear trainers, rather than plimsolls, as trainers are better at supporting children's ankle development. Children should also be able to remove any jewellery themselves – including religious jewellery. This term we are focussing on invasion games in hockey and football, leading on to Dance lessons. We will be using and developing our passing, receiving, shooting, and defending skills, alongside building on our teamwork skills.

English

In **English**, We will be focussing on a variety of texts including 'The Story Machine', 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', 'My name is not refugee' and poetry written by Benjamin Zephaniah. In year 4, we will be writing exploring language with our first text, 'The Story Machine' where we will be creating our own short stories, using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to add more detail to our writing. We will then move on to 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', where we will be writing letters and a diary entry. The children will use drama to help understand the different characters and the emotions they felt throughout the book. Next, the children will continue to develop their report writing skills when we write a non-chronological report based on the book 'My Name is Not Refugee'. Finally, in celebration of Black History Month, we will be looking at the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah, which discusses differences. We will also be writing our own poetry, with a focus of different rhyming schemes and structures.

Guided reading sessions will be based on a range of texts, including our current class novel, where children will be required to answer questions about what they have read and use their own thoughts and ideas to think about how the characters may feel.

By the end of the year, children are expected to be able to write extended pieces showing neat handwriting, appropriate punctuation and clear understanding. To support this as caregivers you can encourage them to write at home daily.

Reading

Please continue to support your child, to encourage a love of reading. They will bring a reading book home linked to their current reading level. **We expect them to read for at least 15 minutes each evening**, discuss what has happened, and talk about the characters and setting, as this will deepen their understanding of the text. A good grasp of reading will help your child access all areas of the curriculum and

stand them in good stead to make progress in their learning. This needs to be recorded in the Reading Record and signed by an adult. Any comments you make are very helpful. Please bring this in everyday so that the children can continue to read the book in school, and so that an adult in school can check the reading record.

Maths

In **Maths**, our learning is centred on addition and subtraction, place value, multiplication and division. This year, we will be visiting different areas of maths at various times, to help with embedding information into our long-term memory. In these areas of maths, the children will develop their understanding on the four operation signs. Children will be equipped to use mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking and demonstrate their understanding of various methods. Our aim is to have all children master their knowledge of timetables up to 12 by the end of the Autumn Term, in preparation for the year 4 times table check.

Science

In **Science**, we will start by learning about teeth and digestion. We will be exploring what human and animal teeth look like, and what can happen if we do not care for our teeth correctly. We will then investigate how eating and drinking certain foods and beverages can cause damage to our teeth. Children will also be taught about the digestive system and how it works. After the half term, we will move on to learning about states of matter. We will be comparing and grouping materials together, according to their properties. We will also be observing how some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and investigate the temperature at which this happens. Lastly, we will be identifying the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and link the rate of evaporation with temperature. Throughout all science lessons, we will be using our enquiry skills to answer a range of questions.

PSHE

During our **PSHE** lessons in the first half of the term, the children will have the opportunity to explore and discuss what it is like 'Being in my world'. We will be reflecting on how we care for others and how we can make them feel welcome; alongside this, we will be thinking about how we can make our school community a better place. During the second half of the term, we will be focussing on 'celebrating differences', where children will continue to develop their understanding of other individuals and how they may be different to them and being accepting of this.

History

During the first part of the Autumn Term, we will be learning about Roman Invasions in **History**. The pupils will begin by studying the reasons why the Roman Empire wanted to invade Britain. Following this, we will explore tribal Britain, the Roman Military success, the life of Boudicca, and finally, the cause of the decline and fall of Roman Britain. As we enter the second part of the Autumn Term, we will further investigate Roman Britain, by exploring how multicultural and diverse the Roman Empire was. Pupils will investigate a range of human remains and the objects they were buried with. Children will also identify the similarities and differences between different Roman towns.

Art and Design

For the first half of the Autumn Term, we will be focussing on our drawing skills in **Art**. We will begin by looking at 3D sketches, which will lead to us creating our own versions. After the Half term, we will focus on Design and Technology, where we will be looking at structures, leading to us creating our own pavilions.

RE

In RE this term, the children will be exploring whether all religions are equal as well as finding out what makes some texts sacred.

Computing

In Computing, we will be learning about computer systems and networks, finding out how the internet works as well as how to stay safe online and how to create your own media.

Spanish

The children will recap previous knowledge and develop their understanding on greetings, animals and parts of the body.

Homework

Spelling

Your child will be provided with a CGP Rising Stars Workbook. Every Friday, a spelling or grammar page will be set for homework. This will then be marked in class the following Friday.

Maths

Every Friday, we will be setting a maths activity which will be stuck in your child's homework book. This activity will help review the week's lessons and support the children to consolidate their learning.

When learning times tables, the expectation is that every child works on their number facts knowledge every day. Times tables should be known inside out and back to front, as well as knowing number facts. At the end of autumn term, children should be able to talk about their mathematics using the numbers they are familiar with, applying their understanding of number and place value to a greater range of problems. They should be able to make decisions about calculations and information that is needed to solve problems. To help children achieve this, weekly tables practice is set on TT rockstars and can be accessed on the link here. <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

I look forward to spending this first term together. Myself, and the Year 4 team, are always happy to answer any queries (preferably at the end of the day once all the children have been dismissed).

Many thanks,

Miss Brown
Year 4 Class Teacher