

Year 4 newsletter 8.3.21

WELCOME BACK! It's so lovely to have all the children back together in school again. A huge thank you once again for all you've done over this challenging time. The way your children have engaged with home learning has been wonderful and I've really enjoyed seeing their work coming in each day. Give yourselves a high five! You smashed it!!

We now have 3 weeks in the run up to Easter where our primary aim is to safely and happily reintegrate the children back into school. We will be doing a mini topic over these 3 weeks and the children will cover all aspects of the curriculum. This being said, I am keen to give the children opportunity to breathe and re-adjust to being back into the routine of a full school day. Therefore, I have slimmed down my daily timetable so the children won't cover as much within each day. This will allow us time to talk and share feelings and experiences as well as the opportunity to re-establish rules and expectations for work ethic, presentation and behaviour. We are not underestimating how overwhelming it will be for even the hardest of child to come back into a class of 30 having had 9 weeks at home with 1:1 attention. We have your child's best interests at heart and will do what we can to make this work for each of them.

TOLERANCE and RESPECT

This is the title of our topic for the next 3 weeks. These are 2 of 5 British values which we will look at over the rest of this half term. During this topic we will study the different people who share our planet with a particular focus on the LGBT community. We will learn about different types of family and different types of relationship by looking at what love means to us. In History, we will study the pioneering work of Harvey Milk and will share a story book about 2 rabbits in our English work. Ask your children for more information about this as the weeks progress. I don't want to give the story away as this will spoil the children's prediction work. We will use the song 'Make your own kind of music' by Cass Elliot and record a music video. All learning will of course be at an age appropriate level and in line with the government guidance for teaching this theme. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

MATHS - We will continue our learning on fractions.

SCIENCE - Continuing with our work about living things, we will study environmental challenges that can affect the habitats of living things.

GEOGRAPHY - Our work is based around Great Britain. We will look at the counties and capitals of the UK as well as the waters that surround our island.

ART - We will study some of the work of Bradford born artist, David Hockney.

PE - Dance.

RE - The theme the children have been learning will continue with us asking, "Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?"

SPANISH - numbers, colours and family members recap.

PE day is Tuesday. Your child should come to school in their PE kit.

OUTDOOR LEARNING is on Monday. Please ensure your child has a change of footwear. If you want them to wear over trousers and a different coat, they may bring these on Mondays.

HOMEWORK. Homework should be submitted weekly on Dojo. I don't mind which day your child submits their homework as long as they produce one piece per week. If they want to tackle some homework in more of a project based way, doing a bit each week, that's fine; post what they've done each week.

Your child should be reading, working on their times tables and learning their spellings daily. New spelling lists will be put on Dojo each Friday and will be tested the following Friday. If your child is working on individualised spellings with Miss Dawson, she will privately message you on Dojo with your child's new spelling list each Friday.

If your child's reading book needs changing, they should bring the book to school along with their green reading record.

DOJO Dojo will be my primary route of communication so please ensure you're checking regularly for messages, reminders, updates and news. You can also use the messages function to contact me directly. As always, if your message is urgent or has a direct impact on your child's day i.e. someone else is picking them up, please let me know on the door.

ASSESSMENTS I will begin assessing your child next week. Please do not worry yourself or your child about this. Checking what they know is a standard part of any school year. I will use the findings from the assessments to plan what the children need to learn next. I will not be talking to the children about 'being behind' or 'catching up.' Many of them won't be behind and if they are, I don't believe they need to know. My job is to make them feel good about themselves while providing them with their next learning steps.

HOMEWORK IDEAS

- Create a fact file about the Prime Minister.
- Create a fact file about voting
- Watch Happy Feet. What makes Mumble different? Write a letter to the people who disown him persuading them to stop being mean.
- Create a poster showing all our British Values
- Create a presentation about your family. Research your family history. Where do your family come from?
- Find something amazing about your community and create a PowerPoint to celebrate what is great about where you live.
- Re-create a landscape from David Hockney of where you live.
- Find out about the Hindu festival of Holi which is celebrated in March.

These are ideas for your child to complete. If they have a different idea that links to some of our learning and want to extend their Science, Spanish or RE learning, they may do so. As long as I receive one piece of work per week, it can be whatever is of particular interest to them.