



Year Four Newsletter Spring

Hello and welcome back after our break! May we welcome you to our newsletter for the second half of the Spring Term. This half term our learning will be based around the famous painting 'The Embarkation Of The Queen Of Sheba' by the artist Claude Lorraine. We have some wonderful learning experiences planned.

Literacy: We will be exploring stories set in Arabia such as The Arabian Nights, Sinbad The Sailor and Aladdin. We will investigate the relevant textual features, layout and organisational aspects of instructional and explanation texts as well as the purpose of such texts. In reading we will be developing our inference and deduction skills, as well as our comprehension skills. We will be continuing develop skills related to skimming/scanning for key words and phrases as well as retrieval of evidence from the text to back up ideas. The children will be using their studies related to the aforementioned painting as a stimulus for their learning across Literacy.

Mathematics: In Maths Mastery classes we will be learning about the four rules of number and applying the relevant skills. We will be developing mental multiplication and division: We will be consolidating our understanding of Fractions, number bonds and interpreting data within our daily Maths Meetings. Our main theme this half term will be Time and Decimals. This week long unit on Time is designed to recap pupils' understanding of reading, writing and solving problems using the 12-hour clock and, in addition, it is pupils' first formal introduction to using the 24-hour clock. Pupils progress to use number lines as a strategy to convert between different units of time and to work out problems involving duration of time. The emphasis in this Decimal unit is on place value, understanding the value of tenths and hundredths, and this will be represented in a variety of different ways, including using dienes, counting sticks, number lines, bead strings and containers.

Please continue to practice all tables facts and their corresponding division facts up to 12x12 using TTRock Stars. Your children should have now received their log in details.

ICT: Use technologies technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content. The children will be using these skills in order to locate, note and present information related to the character the Queen Of Sheba. Their research notes will then form the basis of a fact file. The children will continue to develop coding skills.

History: The children will be developing an understanding of chronology and the passage of periods of history. They will be learning about what life was like in ancient Mesopotamia and link this to the stories they will read in Literacy and the artwork that they will be studying. They will also be exploring aspects of ancient art, clothing, seafaring, as well as learning about the key characters related to the Queen of Sheba who was first mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. In the original story, she brings a caravan of valuable gifts for King Solomon.

Art: The children will be improving their mastery of art skills. They will be developing an understanding of how to 'read' paintings based on their subject, perspective and mood. The children will also develop drawing skills including line, tone and shading. They will also develop understanding of how to draw, paint figures and how to represent movement.

Science: 2 The children will be working practically setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests, making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment. This will involve gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions. The children will be recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables. After this they will be reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions. This will be based around the theme of sound.

Come And See: As part of our religious studies we will be exploring the question 'What is giving and receiving?' We will explore scripture and the Gospel stories and how the apostles formed the basis of the church, the Last Supper and how this links to the idea of communion, the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass. This half term will also include our preparations for Lent and Holy Week.

PE will take place on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure that the children have suitable clothing and footwear as the weather becomes colder. The children's second PE session will be swimming for this term. This will be every Friday afternoon. Please ensure that the children have all their swim kit each week. Swimming will continue for another 5 weeks until Friday 29th March.

Homework will continue to be given out each Friday and collected in the following Friday. It will be a Maths activity, Spelling and Reading.

Your children have started the half term extremely keen, excited and are already producing some wonderful work.

Thank you all for your continued support,

Mr Searson and Ms Brown.