

Dear Parents,

I hope you've had a peaceful break and would like to wish you all, a very happy new year. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your kind wishes, cards and gifts? I was overwhelmed by your generosity and am very grateful.

Here is an overview of the topics that will be covered this term:

English - (Mrs Shackcloth)

The children will be looking at non-fiction texts, namely recounts in the form of newspaper writing. Following on from this they will be studying our 'Creating images' poetry unit, followed by work on narratives from imaginary worlds. Spelling and sentence homework will continue to be set on Mondays, and children should record their reading in their reading record books. Please listen to your children read, even if they are independent readers. Reading aloud is still a vital part of the reading process and is recommended for children well into their teenage years. Your child also has a writing journal in which they can record any stories, poems or thoughts and we encourage them to take some pride in these.

Maths - (Mr Haywood)

The children will look at telling time to the nearest minute and solve problems related to time, negative numbers, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 and begin to explore angles in different shapes. We will also be revisiting the formal written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well securing our knowledge of decimals and fractions.

Science - (Mrs Rankin)

The children will complete their work on forces and carry out comparative and fair tests to investigate the strength of magnets. In February we will start a unit of work entitled 'Human Impact' and learn about some of the positive and negative ways that humans change the environment, locally and globally, with a particular focus on how this affects other living things. We will begin to understand that actions can have both positive and negative consequences.

Humanities - (Mrs Rankin)

We are approaching the end of our Ancient Greeks unit and looking forward to our visit to the Ashmolean next week, when we will have the opportunity to study artefacts at close range. The visit will also launch our next focus of study: Roman Britain.

Computing - (Mr Haywood)

Year 4 will be being musicians; they will record their own music and then try to layer each part to create a piece of music. They will be using software such as Isle of Tune, 2Simple and LMMS to achieve this. After this, Year 4 will be looking at how webpages are built and how HTML is used to create webpages.

Other curriculum areas

Year 4 will continue to work through a series of short topics in French, to build confidence in using single words and short phrases in different contexts. In Design and Technology the children will be exploring levers and linkages and developing technical skills in order to make mini catapults. Class 3 has P.E on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Kit should include proper trainers, socks, shorts above the knee (for gym) and a warm tracksuit (for outdoor games). When the weather is very cold, gloves and a woolly hat may also be worn. It is school policy that long hair is tied up and no jewellery is worn for Games or P.E. Earrings must be removed if possible or tape supplied from home to cover them. We will be covering a mixture of outdoor games, fitness, gym and dance. In games we will be continuing to develop our hockey skills, looking at dribbling, passing, shooting and how they can apply these skills into a match situation. The children will also continue to do gymnastics with Mr. Watts on a Wednesday morning.

Home Learning

English and Maths homework will continue to be set by subject teachers. For this half term the children will be set a mini project on the Ancient Greeks – details will be sent out separately - therefore there will be no learning log tasks set. Please do make contact if you need further clarification or have any matters you would like to discuss.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Rankin