











Year 4, Spring 2, 2021

The children have returned to school with energy and enthusiasm, and all are ready to learn. Year 4 are showing great progress across the curriculum, and I've planned a range of challenging and engaging lessons to reflect this. We will continue with our "Misty Mountain, Winding River" topic which continues to be based on Geography but will touch all elements of the children's curriculum.

<p>English</p> 	<p>Year 4 will use key events in the calendar to inspire their writing (Pancake Day, World Book Day, Shakespeare Week etc). Different types of fiction and non-fiction will be taught each week with an extended piece of writing, usually on a Friday, planned for children to show off their learning. It is therefore essential that children attend as much school as possible so they can continue to work alongside and with their peers.</p> <p>As I stated last half term, it is a delight to read the independent pieces of writing that children bring into school to read to their friends. We have a dedicated display area to show off these pieces and children are always incredibly proud of these achievements. Please encourage children to continue to write as much at home and bring their texts into school to show to me and their friends.</p> <p>Spelling remains a key part of our English curriculum and again, please encourage children to look at their spellings every day. This is a real "little and often" approach that greatly boosts children's confidence. I will be sending out a list of the complete half term's spelling so that there is a copy of these always to hand at home. Handwriting too is key at this stage of children's education as they are expected to reread their writing and edit and evaluate it.</p> <p>Children continue to have 1:1 reading sessions with an adult and now take part in our "Accelerated Reader" program. This involves children taking part in quizzes after they have completed a book to ensure they have fully comprehended it. It is vitally important that children bring their reading books into school daily as we have allocated daily curriculum time dedicated to children's reading.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Children will begin a new topic of decimals in their maths lessons. This is a key cornerstone of mathematical understanding, and I will be allocating a lot of maths learning time to it to ensure the children have a solid foundation. It plays a key part in understanding money and measurement and any opportunity you have to discuss these with children will be useful. We will also look at the 12 and 24 hour time which, again, has real practical value to children's lives.</p> <p>As I have stated before, times tables remain another cornerstone of children's mathematical understanding. Lots of children continue to bring in examples of their times tables learning from home, and I encourage this to continue. Again, when children feel proud of their learning it embeds it more deeply and increases their self-confidence.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>"Living Things and their Habitats" will be our science topic this half term. This topic focuses on systems of classification such as vertebrates and invertebrates, flowering and non-flowering plants. It also looks at developing the link between animals and their habitats and the impact humans have upon it.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>This half term children will investigate using Logo programming. This is a fascinating insight into the world of programming where children will begin to write code to move an object around the screen. This is available on the Purple Mash website (which all children have access to) under the "2Logo" heading. If you need any assistance with this, please don't hesitate to ask.</p>
<p>Geography/History</p> 	<p>Children will look at mountains in their Geography lessons this half term. They will investigate their formation, the different types that form as well as the differing climates and wildlife that populate them.</p>
<p>D&amp;T and Art</p> 	<p>This half term's topic is "Animals in Art" in which children study the form of animals and express this through clay sculpture. They then move onto a Design and Technology project focusing on the design features of a range of projects.</p>

<p>PE</p> 	<p>A specialist coach will continue to teach Year 4 Rugby skills as part of their PE lessons. Dance will continue to be led by our qualified dance teacher and the children will learn a variety of dances, incorporating a wide range of skills and manoeuvres. Please ensure that children's PE kit is always in school.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>As well as weekly singing assemblies, Year4 will learn a number of inspirational songs including Bill Wither's "Lean on Me". They will extend their musical vocabulary and use this to critique a range of different pieces of music.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In religious education, children will be investigating the question "What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right or wrong?" This fascinating question has a number of implications which the children will explore.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>Year 4 will explore the relationship between a healthy body and a healthy mind. We will continue to explore how this can lead us to nurture and maintain relationships with our peers.</p>

Homework will be sent home on Thursdays and should be returned by the following Tuesday. Children will have Maths homework which can be found on the MyMaths website or they can complete the Maths sheet that is stuck into their homework book. Children will be also asked to complete a topic-based activity as detailed on the weekly homework sheet which is stuck into your child's homework book.

Please continue to read every night with your child at home. This is a fantastic routine to develop that benefits all involved and has a profound effect on the development and well-being of your child. It's also a time to discuss the text, have a general chat about school, and look into the world that your child lives in here at Kingsway.

If you have any questions about this half term's learning or you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks for your support,

Mr Green