



## Queen's Drive Primary School

### Year 4 Curriculum Letter – Autumn First Half Term

Welcome to our first curriculum letter of a new school year! These are very exciting and testing times as we have a new curriculum filled with great challenges, a new time-table for the children to get used to and some very enthusiastic teachers, Miss Parkinson Mr Chesters and Mr Carlisle, who are all really looking forward to bringing some wonderful opportunities for learning and investigating within the Year Four classes.

The changes in year groups, classes and teachers can often be an anxious time for children and parents alike, so, if there are any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

This half term we will be covering a wide range of topics in the lessons stated below.



#### English

In English, our genres are Stories with a Theme, Poems with a Structure and Information Booklets.

We will be looking at how to create, plan, retell and write our own stories, including how to add detail to evoke the setting, sequence events clearly and show how one event leads to another. We will also explore how to design, plan and edit our own information booklets, using technical language and imagery to illustrate their non-fiction texts based on our topics Water/ World Rivers and Ancient Egypt. The children will then produce their own final versions to be presented to an audience. Year 4 follow the Support for Spelling programme from the Department for Education and the wordlists from the new curriculum. This programme focuses on spelling strategies and ways to tackle 'tricky' spellings. The spelling focus will be tackled in spelling sessions each week but your support from home will be vital if the children are going to make progress. We will be reinforcing our spelling strategies using our *No Nonsense Spelling* scheme.

#### Reading

The school's reading scheme continues throughout Key Stage 2, although children **will not** be bringing home their school reading books or reading diaries home. To help lower the risk of infection, children will be allocated reading activities on their Read Theory accounts. To access their reading children must use their individual, username and password for [www.readtheory.org](http://www.readtheory.org). New passwords will be sent home with children during the first week of school. It would be very helpful if parents and guardians can encourage their children to spend 15 - 20 min per evening, accessing their reading. We also encourage children to read their own books at home.

Tips to help: It is very important that children practise their reading aloud at home and as often as possible. Remember, every child benefits from being able to discuss what they have read. Discuss the plot of the story, describe character, predict the end of the story and give personal opinions, etc.

When reading try to add interest by reading in different voices or accents - it's fun but also reminds children of speech for play script work later this year. You parents can really make a difference!

We will try to hear your child read each week, which may be as part of a small group or individually.



#### Maths

In Maths, we will be concentrating on place value, mental calculation strategies, addition and subtraction, money and real life problems, length, shape and space. Please help your child to learn their times tables by practising at home or helping them use the Times Table Rock Stars, Prodigy and My Maths apps. They will be regularly tested by us so that your child can get their next sticker and move from the Bronze level right through to the Gold level. More importantly, this year the Government have introduced a Yr4 Times Table test so as much help and practice will benefit your child's overall performance.

Tips to help: During your trips to the shops, discuss prices and change from £1 or £2 or tot up several items together. Look at the weight of items and see which is the heaviest or lightest- converting them from kilos to grams and vice versa. Why not give your child the opportunity to buy small items themselves and to check the change. Also don't forget to read the TV Times or Sky magazine for extra practise on time!



#### Science

In science, the children will be focusing on developing their scientific skills through a range of practical investigations using a range of different stimuli to promote scientific enquiry and thinking skills.

We will focus on States of Matter, where the children will group and classify a variety of different materials. They will explore the effect of temperature on water and ice, research the temperature at which different materials change state and make their own scientific observations and comments.





### **Topic Theme (History, Geography, Art, D.T.& Music) – WATER WATER EVERYWHERE**

The children will be studying Ancient Egypt this term. They will be looking at how Egypt was founded; the different Kingdoms, the importance of the River Nile to settlers, Mummification, Egyptian Gods, Pyramids, Pharaohs and much, much more.

If you have any information books about Egypt or artefacts it would be wonderful if your child could bring them in and share the information with the class. Do we have any archeologists in Year Four?

Linked to this will be a geography theme – World Rivers and the Water Cycle. They will use a wider range of maps, atlases and globes to locate UK, European and world rivers plus other features studied.

### **I.C.T.**

During this half term the children will learn how to create instructions for 'apps' called codes. They will begin to program simple games and will practise sharing and evaluating their apps with the class. The children will also learn how to explain how they have programmed their apps using the correct vocabulary.

### **R.E.**

In R.E. the children will learn about Hinduism, examining family, community and traditions from that religion. The focus will include Brahman, Dharma, tradition and worship. We will study some of the stories about Krishna. If you know of any people who follow the Hindu faith and are willing to come into school to talk to the children please let us know.



### **P.E. and Games**



Year 4 will begin the year developing their physical skills and use them to play a range of invasion games, such as netball, football and rugby. This will allow the children to improve their skills. Due to the current situation, more PE will take place outdoors weather permitting. It is imperative that children have suitable PE kits. Blue tracksuit bottoms may be worn for outdoor PE as well as trainers. Children should bring their PE on the first day of term, and leave it in school until the end of term. Please ensure that all the children's kit is labelled clearly with their name and class number.

Once sorted, it is hoped that Year 4 will be going swimming at Fulwood Leisure Centre, more details will follow soon.

### **Homework**

The children will receive homework on a weekly basis, the subject area of which will change according what the children are focusing on in class. Instead of completing this homework inside their homework books, children will be assigned homework on the learning platform Seesaw, which they have used since March. Please make sure you have checked the link and let us know of any problems.

In Class **10 and 11**, the work will be usually issued and set on a Tuesday and is expected to be completed no later than the following Monday.

### **On a Final Note**

All items needed for class work are available in class. As children move through Key Stage 2 they are expected to become more independent and look after all their belongings carefully. We would really appreciate the support of parents on this matter, as it is integral to school life in Key Stage 2.

Please make sure **all** your child's belongings are labelled with their name and class, especially their P.E. Kits and jumpers and cardigans. There have been a lot of upset parents having to purchase extra uniforms and clothing due to the lack of labelling.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter.

**Mr Chesters, Miss Parkinson and Mr Carlisle**

