

Year 4 Newsletter – Spring Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers:

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very happy new year! We hope that you all had a lovely break.

Key information:

- Due to parent feedback we will be adjusting the format of our homework. In the meantime we are sending home your spellings and some homework for this week.
- Spelling tests will remain on Wednesday. Some spelling rules may be a repeat of last term's, as we feel that children need to keep practising.
- Please keep encouraging your child to read their accelerated reader book, every day for 15 minutes, at home. This will ensure that they are quizzing on the accelerated reader system more frequently. They will have an opportunity to change their reading books, at the library, weekly.
- PE lessons will continue to be on a Thursday. Please make sure your child brings their PE kit on this day.

Key dates for your diary:

- Year 4 will be going on an educational visit to The Wallace Collection. Spruce (4L) will be going on the 14th January and Aspen (4G) will be going on the 16th January.
- *Ancient Egyptian Day* on the **30th January**: This will be a whole day spent learning about Ancient Egypt. The day will include drama, food tasting and we will have special visitors from UCL coming into school to share Ancient Egyptian artefacts. **Children can dress up as Ancient Egyptians, if they wish to do so.**
- *Science Fair* on the **13th February at 2:45pm**. Parents are invited to Year 4 Science Fair. This will be led by the children and will be an opportunity for them to share experiments, video tutorials and the learning they have been doing in Science this half term.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the spring term. Please do have a look on the website at our chronology for further detail.

Our big question this term is 'Why do ideas change over time?' We will be making links to this throughout all of our teaching when appropriate.

Our **English** this half term closely links to our History topic. We will begin by writing a report entitled 'Why was the River Nile important?' We will then go onto explore mummification and Gods. We look forward to reading 'The Legend of Osiris and Seth'. We will use this as a stimulus for our big write in order to retell the story with an extended/alternative ending.

For **Destination Reader** this term, we will be exploring non-fiction texts, extracts from fiction texts and poetry; all related to the Ancient Egyptians. We will continue discussing texts using our sentence stems for prediction, inference, questioning, making connections, clarifying and evaluation.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on multiplication and division. We will be exploring efficient methods for multiplication and division such as recalling number facts and partitioning to solve calculations. We will move onto short multiplication and short division written methods (up to 3 digits by 1 digit).

Our **History** topic is centred on Ancient Egypt. As we will be exploring the Ancient Egyptians across many subjects (i.e. English, Destination Reader and D&T), our focus on History will be on Cleopatra and Hatshepsut. We will conduct a comparative study on these two female pharaohs of Egypt. We will place key events on a timeline, think about the hierarchy system and what it meant to be a woman during Ancient Egyptian times.

In **Science**, our topic will be 'States of Matter'. We will be thinking about the properties of solids, liquids and gasses. In addition, we will explore freezing, melting, condensation and evaporation. In preparation for our Science Fair, we will be making short tutorial videos each lesson as a way of recording our learning.

In **Computing**, we are going to be using Microsoft Word on OneDrive online. We will be focusing on our keyboard skills through typing up our ancient Egyptian report, written in English. We will go onto learning key skills such as how to format writing, tables and pictures.

In **Music**, we will learn to sing the melody of the song 'Amazing Egyptians'. We will focus on the verses, chorus and coda. Eventually, we will use this to inspire our musical procession. We will continue creating ostinatos in groups, using various percussion instruments.

Finally, our "big question" in **Religious Education** this term is: What is the importance of the symbolism, beliefs and teaching in Hinduism? In this unit, we will be learning all about Hinduism.

We look forward to seeing you at **Parents' Evening** on either the 30th January or the 6th February.

Homework will be given out on Wednesdays and need to be returned the following Monday. If you would like your child to have additional homework over and above the core homework each week, please sign the slip below.

Best wishes,

Miss Lukwesa, Mr Greenslade, Lou, Natalie and Rita

I would like my child _____ to receive the extra, optional homework every week.

I do not want my child to receive the extra, optional homework.

Signature: _____ **(parent/guardian)**