

Year 4 Spruce Newsletter – Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers:

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome back to the new school year. We hope that you all had a very enjoyable and restful summer break. It is a pleasure to be teaching Spruce class and I am very much looking forward to focusing on the year ahead. Lou will be our class Teaching Assistant, and the Year 4 team also includes Mr Greenslade, Natalie and Rita. We are all excited for our year ahead together!

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information.

In **English Writing**, we will begin by reading 'Zoo' by Anthony Browne, which closely links to our science topic, 'Living Things'. When exploring this book, we will be empathising with the characters and animals and will be writing diary entries and letters from their perspective. We will also have a chance to make a persuasive advert and create a persuasive leaflet. A big focus this year will be on improving handwriting, which we will be practicing every morning.

In **Destination reader**, we will begin by recapping on the reading skills that we use to make us good readers. We will be reading 'The Saga of Eric the Viking' by Terry Jones. This book is linked to our history topic The Vikings. We hope to increase our reading stamina and improve our ability to discuss texts. Please try to encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible and, wherever possible, please take the time to read with your child.

Our **Maths** topics this half-term will include: place value and securing strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our focus this year is to develop our ability to respond to word problems, explaining our reasoning effectively. We will begin to introduce various ways to learn our timetables. Children will be tested on their times tables on a weekly basis.

Our **History** topic will be The Vikings. We will be exploring this topic through research, drama, art and computing. We will be learning all about where the Vikings came from, raids and invasions, the resistance by Alfred the Great and Athelstan, Viking life and Viking Gods.





In **Science**, our topic will be “Living Things”. We will begin to classify different types of animals and learn how to create and use keys to identify different types of living things. We will be visiting the Soanes Centre to further explore minibeasts and their natural habitat.

In Year 4 **French** this term, we will be practising how to ask for and offer classroom items and will be asking and answering whether we have brothers and sisters as well as revising some previously learnt phrases.

During our **Music** lessons, we will be recreating an ostinato piece, using percussion instruments. We will be listening carefully to music and thinking about how to layer different instruments. Before the end of the half term, we will create and perform our own raps.

Finally, our “big question” in **Religious Education** this term is: *‘How does belief in God affect the actions of people in the Old Testament?’* In this unit, we will investigate how faith takes shape differently in Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Jonah and David’s lives. We will link this to how having faith in God effects Christian’s actions and attitudes. Furthermore, we will make contrasts/comparisons between what we are learning and our own individual beliefs.

P.E. will be on **Thursdays** and will now be led by our P.E. coach Anna. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing the correct kit on these days. Children must bring their full school uniform in their bags so that they can get changed during the school day. Swimming at Tiller this year will commence after **February half term**.

Homework will be handed out once per term. Please encourage your child to pick one or two tasks per week to complete. Each week, homework books will be collected on **Wednesday** to be marked and handed back out on **Friday**. Please ensure that your child is practicing the relevant spellings and times tables as these will be tested every **Wednesday**.

I am really looking forward to teaching Spruce class and I think that we will have a great year together! If there is anything that you wish to talk to me about, please do let me know.

Best wishes,

Miss Lukwesa and Lou

