

Class Wren Newsletter

Welcome back. I really enjoyed our first topic about WW1 and the children have been so immersed in all the learning which is fantastic. I am really excited about our next theme 'Road Trip USA'! Keep up the good work! Well done.

Road Trip USA

Buckle up and put your sunglasses on – this half term we're going on a road trip across the USA! Well actually to Mansfield museum! The story, James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl, will be used to inspire writing this term in the form of diary entries, character descriptions and newspaper reports. Using maps, we'll locate USA and find all 52 states. By using travel brochures, books and the internet, we will do further research about the American states in order to write postcards. We'll look at the amazing lights of Times Square and use this to help us make circuits as part of our 'Electricity' Science focus. We'll also explore the Native American story of Thanksgiving and explain how it is still celebrated today and have a go at weaving beautiful dreamcatchers.

Winter is Coming!

We all know how unpredictable British weather can be! Please ensure that your child brings a coat everyday to school with their name inside. I would advise that children keep their hats, scarfs and gloves inside their school bags to prevent them getting lost in the cloakrooms.

Water Bottles

Children need to bring their water bottle into the classroom daily which can be used anytime except at lunchtime. Children can keep water bottles at their desks as long it is used appropriately.

RE and British Values

In RE, we will be learning about Christmas. We will be looking at the journeys Mary made. For British values, the children will be focussing on Friendship and Respect as apart of their Brinsley Values. They will be talking about what these words mean and how it links to society.

Science

In Science, we will look at Electricity. We will explore circuits, electrical appliances, conductors and insulators and switches.

Maths

In Maths, we will be looking at Mass, Volume and Length. This will involve converting units of measurement and learning about the perimeter. We will also be focusing the main part of the term looking at multiplication and division. This will involve lots of times table practise as by the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of their multiplication and division facts up to 12 x12. We will also look at dividing with remainders.

Year 4 Homework, Spellings & Home Reading

Maths homework: There will be a weekly cycle of maths homework consisting of one piece of Maths homework which will consolidate or challenge learning in the classroom (same as the previous term). This needs to be handed in **every Monday** so that it can be marked and returned to your child on the same day.

Reading at Home : Children will be able to access Bug Club based on their individual book bands to answer comprehension questions at home. At the end of KS2, children ultimately answer comprehension questions as part of their SATs assessment. Therefore, it is important that we expose children to different questions within different genres of writing. On the other hand, reading for enjoyment and pleasure is something I am passionate about. A love for reading is equally as important. Please encourage your children to record in their own reading log when they have read at home with an adult, independently or on Bug Club. Mrs Taylor will stamp books **every Monday** and stick in guided reading learning outcomes for the week.

Cornerstones Topic Homework: New homework will be given out shortly for this topic, with a list of exciting things to do at home. Children can bring their homework into school to share with the class and receive a well done dot and certificate.

Spellings: Spellings will be tested **every Friday**. These spellings link to the Year 3/ 4 spelling rules and common exception words. These rules will be taught within grammar sessions on Fridays. Some children will have their own spelling group with Mrs Taylor to target spelling gaps. Please ensure children's bring in their home spelling log **every Friday** too so that we can record their scores and stick in their new spellings.

Optional English Homework: Writing and Grammar are key areas within the English curriculum. If you would like one piece of weekly English homework sending home too in their homework folder, please contact Miss Croft.

PE and Swimming

There will be no more swimming this term. Swimming will resume again in February for children who did not achieve level 4(25metres) in Year 4. If your children achieved Level 4, they will remain at school to take part in a PE lesson.

Our PE day will take place on Monday afternoon with the sports coach and Friday Afternoon with the Miss Croft. Please ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school at all times. Earrings should be removed at home or a letter obtained from the office if ears are newly pierced.

Arriving to School and Leaving School

Children will arrive to school at 8:40-8:45 by themselves. Mrs Taylor will be on the class door every morning if you need to pass on any messages to Miss Croft or other members of staff in the Old School Building. Children will leave school with Miss Croft around the back gate first and then move around to the main playground. If you need to speak to Miss Croft, please arrange an appointment in the office as I may not always be available after school.

Diary Dates

29.10-18 – 2.11.18 HALF TERM
07.11.18 Parents Evening
08.11.18 Parents Evening
08.11.18 Game of Remembrance match at Notts County
12.11.18 -16.11.18 Anti-Bullying Week
12.11.18 Year 4 Road Trip USA Trip to Mansfield Museum (WOW Day)
20.11.18 Science Day
22.11.18 Film Night
10.12.18 -14-12.18 Enterprise Week
12.12.18 Christmas Swap day
13.12.18 Christmas crafts afternoon
13.12.18 Year 2/ Year 4 Christmas Performance
13.12.18 Wear Christmas Jumpers
18.12.18 Christingle KS2 at Church pm
19.12.18 Enterprise fair
20.12.18 Last day
21.12.18 – 4.01.19 Christmas Holidays!

Reporting Concerns

If your child has worries at home that you are concerned about, please arrange an appointment to speak to Miss Croft and Mrs Taylor. It is important that you check with us first about concerns as we see and interact with the whole class every day and may know more about a situation.

Children have disagreements from time to time and how to deal with conflicts in the playground is one of our main goals in Year 4. It is important for children to tell adults that are outside so that it can be dealt with immediately. Miss Croft and Mrs Taylor will log all incidents that happen within the classroom to ensure behaviour is being monitored.

If children have issues or worries at break or lunch time, that they feel hasn't been sorted out or feel they need to tell Miss Croft and Mrs Taylor, then children can write their name on a post it note. This means that an adult will speak to them at some point throughout the day to solve or reflect on what has happened. Miss Croft used this system with her previous class which has been highly received and ensures problems are dealt with before the end of the day.

Miss Croft & Mrs Taylor

4C



Useful websites and apps

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zj44jxs> - About electricity

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - Quick recall facts for maths with a time table area. (Remember it isn't just multiplication facts but division facts too)

http://www.yourchildlearns.com/us_map.htm - Locating States and finding out facts about different states

<https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/stories/f-j/james-and-the-giant-peach> - More information on James and the Giant Peach

<https://scratch.mit.edu/download> - We will be learning about coding this term in Computing. Please download the software Scratch to allow your children to explore and use the program. Children will learn things independently through trial and error and learn how to use this software to create their own educational game in class.

