



Welcome everybody to Holyrood class (Year 4) I am really looking forward to teaching your children this academic year. In this first term we will be learning about many different topics. Please read on to discover all the great things we will be covering this Autumn term!

Reading

This term our class texts will be 'Escape From Pompeii' written by Christina Balit and 'Romulus and Remus' which will be a part of our myths and legends unit in the second half term. Our story time reading book will be 'The World's Worst Children' by David Walliams.

The children will be learning a variety of skills through reading. They will be learning how to familiarise themselves with new vocabulary, infer from text using clues, make predictions based on pictures and evidence in the text. Retrieve by reading information and choosing the relevant parts that a question is asking, explaining in detail what is happening and why, retrieving information by reading the text and summarising text by picking out the most important and exciting information.

Children are expected to be reading every day at home. It is important parents or older siblings can ask questions to the children about the book that they are reading such as: Who are the characters? What is happening now? Why does a certain character feel this way? What do you think will happen next? It is not about how much the children read, it is about how much they understand. Reading for roughly 15-20 minutes a day and then being asked comprehension questions is ideal. Children will be receiving reading records which will be checked every Monday morning, please can parents sign these and perhaps comment how your child has read.

English – Writing, handwriting, grammar, punctuation, and spelling

We follow the National Curriculum for the delivery of skills in writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling. The books that we will be looking at this term will allow the children to learn and apply these skills.

Children will be practising their handwriting on a weekly basis, learning how to join the letters and to ensure their writing is legible. Through English children will learn how to write non-chronological reports, newspaper reports, character descriptions, setting descriptions, diary entries and learn how to debate different statements.

Our English lessons will incorporate our class texts and the writing will cover fiction and non-fiction. This will give children the opportunity to write imaginatively using different resources such as pictures and video clips. It will also allow children to write from a non-fictional point of view, by writing biographies and studying history.

For spellings children will focus on a group of them every week from the year 4 statutory spelling list. We will be using the 'No nonsense spelling scheme'.

Grammar will be taught alongside English lessons including adjectives, fronted adverbials, paragraphs, expanded noun phrases and determiners. These skills will enhance the children's writing and make it more interesting and expansive.

Maths

Following the White Rose scheme of work Year 4 will focus on the following units during the Autumn term:
Place Value, Addition/Subtraction, Area and Multiplication/division

To support your child at home please get them to practice their times tables up to 12. Children in Year 4 need to know all their times tables up to 12 x 12 and the division facts. We have a times table test towards the end of the academic year and it helps so much with all areas of maths. Children will have access to TT Rockstars to learn their tables, whilst there are plenty of other websites such as topmarks.com and timestables.me.

Science

This half-term children will be learning about living things and their habitats. They will explore variety of ways to identify, sort, group and classify living things. They will learn how animals are split into vertebrates and invertebrates and begin to consider the differences between living things within these classifications. This unit will also introduce children to the idea that environments are subject to human-made and natural changes and that these changes can have a significant impact on living things.

In the second half-term children will be learning about states of matter. We will learn about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have the chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate.

Other Curriculum Subjects

History and Geography: Through our topic work we will be learning about the impact the Roman Empire had on life in Britain. They will learn about the spread of the Roman Empire, the invasion of Britain and the eventual conquest. Children will look in detail at some aspects of the Romanisation of Britain, such as the building of Roman roads and bathhouses. In addition to this, they will have the opportunity to learn about the British resistance of Boudicca. The children will also investigate Hadrian's Wall, examining how, where and why it was built.

RE: Throughout this academic year we will be learning about the Sikhism religion. In the first half-term we will be focussing on what is Sikhism? Whilst the second half-term we will be finding out about people who are Sikh and what they believe in. Whilst we are learning about Sikhism, we will be comparing similarities with Christianity.

PSHE: During this first half-term children will be learning about protective behaviours. The rights that all children have, safe and unsafe feelings. About what happens when you get your early warning signs and what you can do and putting adults on a network whom you can trust to tell them when you get your early warning signs.

PE: Currently children have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Monday they will be swimming, whilst on Wednesdays for this half-term our sport focus will be Hockey. Please ensure children have appropriate kits for both days.

Art & Design: In Art this half-term we will be creating Roman mosaics, whilst in the second half-term we will be designing moving Christmas cards.

Music: With our music lessons we will be focussing on the songs from 'The Lion King'. From this our class will be creating a performance of a Lion King medley.

Computing: Children will be recapping how to code using purple mash, they will be creating their own settings, characters and learn how to use the different functionalities 2code provides.

Homework

Maths homework will be set on Tuesday and expected back on Friday and English homework will be set on Friday and then expected back by the following Tuesday.

We do hope that your child enjoys their first term of this academic year with us. If you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to speak to one of us quickly, about any matter, however small.

Mr Purewal and Miss Baxter