



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year Four!

I trust you have all had a happy and relaxing summer and I am thrilled to welcome you to our new Year Four class! I am writing to introduce the Year Four team and explain what we are going to be teaching up to Christmas.

Meet the team

Mrs Lawrence - Class teacher
Mrs Gregg - Teaching assistant
Mrs Evangelou - Teaching assistant
Mrs Thorpe – PPA teacher, covering Thursday

Year Four Autumn curriculum

Our topic this term is called "Time Travellers" which links our English, Science, History and Art curriculum primarily.

English
We will be covering a range of genre starting with poetry about creating images using descriptive language, feeding into a longer unit of work on Stories Set in Imaginary Worlds. We will read The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis to begin with, focussing on the author's use of language to create fantastic settings and larger than life characters. Children will apply some of these techniques within their own stories. Later on in the term, we will look at using persuasion to promote healthy eating as well as non- chronological reports to inform the reader about their Healthy Eating choices.
Mathematics
We will begin this term with a recap and revision of previous learning, then we will work on a range of mental and written strategies for the four rules of number and apply these to real life worded problems, allowing children to develop their mathematical vocabulary and understanding of what maths looks like on a daily basis. It would help enormously if children could practice their times tables at home. Please ensure your children are playing on times table rockstars and practicing all their multiplication facts. We will be having a Maths mastery shared lesson before half term.
Science
Sound is our first topic. We will learn about how sound is created, what factors alter sounds and how we hear. In term two, we will be learning about electricity. We will look at the different components of building a variety of circuits and what makes them complete/ incomplete. We will then use this knowledge to create a Christmas themed light.
Computing (IT)
We will begin with a recap of the importance of staying safe online and will be teaching a range of strategies for the children to use, raising their awareness of personal safety. The children will also use the laptops to research and present other areas of the curriculum, developing their digital literacy and typing skills.
Design & Technology (DT)
Linked with Harvest, we will be studying the different foods which grow according to the seasons. We will look at and experiment with recipes using these ingredients. Watch this space for some future tasting opportunities!
Art
We will be studying the techniques of the Anglo Saxons and their extraordinary craftsmanship when using metal, making our own jewellery using clay. We will also be illustrating, sketching and drawing across the curriculum.
Music
Using the Oxfordshire Online Music Scheme Charanga, the children will work through units, which expose them to a wide variety of musical genres. We will begin with a unit of work on Abba's Mamma Mia! which I'm sure the children will love, (Mums and Dads are allowed to join in!)
Religious Education (RE)
In RE, we will learn about the synagogue and how the Jewish Community worship there. Nearer Christmas, linking with our geography topic, we will explore the idea of making journeys, expressing the Christmas story- travelling to the stable and why this journey came into being.

Physical Education (PE)
Mr Long (A PE specialist) will be working alongside us during one of our outdoor PE Lessons. We will focus on sending and receiving the ball, using space well and positioning ourselves within an area in relation to our teammates. The children will be taking part in cross country, Tag Rugby and football. In term 2 we will start with dance indoors and our outdoor PE will be Netball.
History
This term, we will learn about the Anglo- Saxon invasion of Britain, especially through art and artefacts. We will look at the legacy that they have left in Britain today, through place names and archaeological finds such as those found at Sutton Hoo.
Geography
Our focus is journeys and map related skills associated with the Anglo Saxon invasion, as well as a more simplistic version of children's routes to school, identifying landmarks along the way. We will discuss the appropriate forms of transport needed to make these journeys, considering the environmental impact and how landmarks can be used to help guide us from A to B.
Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)
This term, we will be thinking about how to be our best and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. We will set goals and discuss ways that we can work to meet them and explore ways to express emotions and resolve conflicts.
Modern Foreign Language
We will begin with a recap on last year's vocabulary and developing counting and greetings further, as well as learning phrases around the topic of the classroom and parts of their body.

What homework to expect and when

Your child will be set weekly homework tasks on Tuesdays, due in the following Monday, giving families the option of completing the tasks midweek or at the weekend. A spelling or grammar activity, designed to support, practise or revisit something we have learned in class will be given weekly. In Maths the children will be given a Maths activity linked to class work one week and the next week a multiplication activity either using timestable Rockstars or a worksheet. Every other week, a spelling list will be given in preparation for a test the following week. In line with our homework policy, each activity should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete.

Ways you can help your child

We strongly recommend that your child reads at home for approximately fifteen minutes per night, recording comments in the reading journal provided. One of the best ways to help your child settle and develop their organisation is to give them that extra responsibility in and around the cloakroom area at the beginning and end of the school day. You will be amazed how quickly they sort themselves out ready for lessons, without any adult support- just a little guidance with new routines. This includes organizing their reading books, lunch boxes and coats.

PE days

We have two outdoor PE sessions for the autumn term and they will take place on Wednesday morning and on a Thursday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for both of these sessions. This consists of a plain white polo t-shirt and navy shorts for indoor sessions, with the addition of a navy sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for outdoor lessons. Trainers are the most appropriate footwear for outdoor PE, as they provide far more cushioning and stability than plimsolls.

Forthcoming events

I can already inform you that our class assembly will be on Friday 11th October at 2:40pm so please save the date! I really look forward to working with your child and getting to know them. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see me after school or make an appointment. TAs are in the cloakroom and available to pass on messages to me in the morning, as it is imperative that our learning gets off to a prompt start at 8.40am. Here's to an exciting first term!

Best wishes

Mrs Lawrence,
Year 3 and 4 team leader.