



Spring 2 Half Term Information for Parents Year 4

Happy children aiming high.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This information sheet tells you about what your child will be learning over the course of this half term, and will make clear how this learning links to our curriculum theme of 'Sustainability'. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Sustainability – 'What can we do to look after our planet?'

English: As a class we will read 'Cinnamon' by Neil Gaiman. Children will begin by making inferences about the characters and situations in the story. They go on to consider the emotions of characters including Cinnamon herself (in the form of diaries) and also of their parents when creating adverts. There is explicit teaching of the conventions of dialogue through drama and children go on to write a story in the style of Cinnamon using speech. We will then go on to read 'Jabberwock' by Lewis Carroll and children will use the language of the poem to investigate and explore their knowledge of etymology and morphology, before performing the poem and eventually creating their own nonsense verse with a gruesome creature based on the same structure.

Spelling: Children will continue to be taught one spelling rule each week. They will take this rule home and will be tasked with finding words which fit the rule, as well as becoming familiar with the spelling of the words explored in class. Examples will be displayed in the classroom and children will complete a weekly spelling activity assessing their understanding of the rule. Children will also practise and learn the spelling of two common exception words each week. Children will be taught the following spelling rules: nouns ending in -ation; adding the prefixes sub and super; plural possessive apostrophes; words with the 's' sound spelt 'sc', words with a soft 'c', spelt 'ce'.

Maths: Children will use their understanding of multiplication to solve integer scaling problems and harder correspondence problems such as n objects are connected to m objects. They will multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written layout. Children will explore area, finding the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares by counting the squares. They will make their own shapes and will work out the area and will compare the area of different shapes. Children will begin exploring fractions, considering 'what is a fraction?'. They will recognise and show equivalent fractions and will count up and down in hundredths, recognising that hundredths arise when dividing an object by one hundred and dividing tenths by ten. Children will deepen their knowledge and understanding through application when solving problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number. They will add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.

Science: Children will identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children will construct circuits of their own, start to create pictorial circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit. Working in groups and using their electrician's toolbox, the children have to perform a variety of timed tasks in order to receive an Electrician certificate. Tasks include making a circuit with a light in it, making a circuit with a buzzer and making a circuit with two lights. Building on their knowledge from last half term when studying the Water Cycle, children will explore water as a renewable energy source. They will learn about hydroelectricity and this knowledge will be enriched during their class trip to Cragside. Additionally, children will consider how their local environment is contributing to greener alternatives to

energy (Catapult Blyth).

RE: Following the Northumberland 'SACRE' scheme of work: Children will learn about aspects of Holi and the legend of demon King Hiranyakashyap. This will be covered in whole school assembly. Children will learn about aspects of Easter. They will discuss the significance of Lent as a season of preparation for Easter, discuss the significance of Shrove Tuesday, identify the main events during Lent such as Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday, examine what Christians in the immediate area do during Lent, discuss the events during Holy Week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and will prepare the Passover meal and emphasise the significance of the bread and the wine that constituted Jesus' Last Supper. Children will know that Easter is important to Christians because it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus know that Easter is a special and happy time of the year involving special stories, events, artefacts and traditions, although it is preceded by a solemn time when Christians prepare for and reflect on the crucifixion of their founder know that the Bible is the main source for information about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Children will learn about Moses and the Exodus, what this story means and what it tells us about God. They will learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit, introducing the term Trinity. We will read the story of the Exodus and will sequence pictures of the main events including the ten plagues.

Art: Children will attend St Michael's church each week, where they will work with their teachers and community members towards a class project, reflective of our term topic of 'Sustainability'. They will work together to create a 'proggy' mat picture of our planet, using the proggy techniques and strips of cotton t-shirt materials. Alongside this, children will apply techniques of gathering fabric and stitching to create lettering to read 'Save Our Planet' and will also create quilted flowers to complement their design. Children will adapt and refine ideas as they progress, create weavings, quilt, pad and gather fabric. Children will take inspiration from the greats – Exploring artists like Lesley Richmond and Wendy Moyer for textiles inspired by nature and Louise Baldwin as a textile artist who uses recycled materials and found objects.

Music: Children will explore sounds, melody and accompaniment, identifying ways sounds are used to accompany a song/range of songs. They will explore and select different melodic patterns and will then begin to play them by ear. They will follow pitch movement in the Song **Jibber Jabber** and show this with their hands. They will perform their own melody on xylophones. They will invent a new melody for the song Jibber Jabber – using some notation (not standard but with notes showing general pitch) to record it. They will consider what place silence has in a piece of music and the effect which it can have. They will listen to Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and discuss the images which appear in their head, drawing a picture or pattern to show what they have imagined as they heard the music.

Computing: Children will work together to design a simple toy that incorporates sensors and outputs and will then create an on-screen prototype of their toy in Scratch. Finally, they will pitch their toy idea to a 'Dragon's Den' style panel! Children will design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including or stimulating physical systems. They will use sequence, selection and repetition in programs; work with various forms of input and output and will use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work. They will detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs. Children will then apply their understanding of programming and the program 'Scratch' to the Crumble software and will work in pairs to program their own crumble to follow a range of instructions. **E-Safety:** Staying safe online: Using a range of given scenarios, children will consider the best and most responsible course of action using the NHFS 'zip it, block it, flag it' icons. They will consider content which incites etc glamorising of violence in video games and how this can escalate quickly and influence behaviour.

PE: Children will work independently and in groups to perform single movements, building into sequences of movement, developing flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance. Children will create

gymnastic sequences that meet a set of given objectives and will begin to describe how their body reacts to different situations. They will build on their performance skills and ability, focusing on transition between movements and will compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.

French: Speaking and Listening: Children will respond to a clear model of language and will continue to use basic phrases concerning themselves, their family and school. They will answer simple questions and give basic information about the weather, their answers being clearly understood. They will learn how to pronounce all single letter sounds.

PSCHE: Although we may touch upon other core themes, the focus will be on core theme 1: Health and Wellbeing. Through a range of discussion, written and practical activities, children consider what constitutes, and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They will recognise what they like and dislike, how to make real, informed choices that improve their physical and emotional health, to recognise choices which have no so good consequences. Children will recognise that they share a responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe, when to say 'yes', 'no', 'I'll ask', 'I'll tell'. We will discuss what is meant by 'privacy'; their right to keep things 'private'; the importance of respecting others' privacy (link to E-Safety).

How can you help?

- Please ensure children use their planners daily and use these to record when you have heard you child read. This can simply be signature and page numbers read. Children receive house points for having signatures recorded to demonstrate reading at home so your support is much appreciated.
- **PE KITS:** Children will be doing PE on **Monday and Wednesday** afternoons this half term and therefore require kits on these days. Please ensure children have the correct kit.
- Ensure your children are familiar with the week's spelling rule and that they have practised their spellings ahead of a Friday.
- Encourage your child to login to Times Tables Rockstars daily.

Homework

The homework which we set will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey. Children are given a spelling rule each week to practice and learn at home. They then complete a spelling check activity the following Friday to check their understanding of this rule. Additionally, we provide children with a half termly homework grid with a range of activities linked to our topic.

Visits/Visitors/Reminders

28.02.20 – PE 'showing potential' testing

Date TBC – Cragside House Class Trip

04.03.20 – Maths Morning EYFS – Year 4

05.03.20 – World Book Day

02.04.20 – Easter service