

YEAR 4 NEWSLETTER

Driving Question: How can we, as tour guides, promote a trip to our chosen European destination?

Aspiration value: Belonging
Term 1 September-October 2020

Literacy

We will be learning a wishing story – The King’s Beard, then using the key features of the text along with the pupils’ imagination to create an interesting plot for new stories they will write. In grammar, the pupils will be consolidating their knowledge of word classes to ensure they fully understand the difference between them. Our expectations for presentation are high; please ensure that your child practices this at home.

Key vocabulary: glossy, court, praise, magnificent, marvellous, finer, entire, scarcely, incredible, desperately, famed, whisker.

- Noun- Person (David), place (Banbury, park) or thing (chair).
- Adjective- A describing word
- Verb- An action / doing word
- Adverb- A word that modifies or qualifies a verb (quietly, late, soon)
- Preposition- a word that tells you where or when something is in relation to something else (E.G. before, on, under)
- Pronoun - A word that replaces a name (I, you, he, she or it)

At home: There will be a big push on handwriting this term so you could do some practise of forming letter correctly using cursive style handwriting. It would also be a good idea to practise your grammar and read at least several times a week. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar> Remember to ensure your child reads every day and that you model good reading habits by discussing books, authors and also reading aloud them daily. Remember to also practise their spellings which will be focused around the key words for Years 3/4 and the spelling rules linked to the prefixes dis, mis, in, re and sub (e.g. disappointed, misread etc) Playing the PiXL Unlock Vocab App games (free with their logins) can support their language and spelling

Maths

This term, we will be consolidating and extending our knowledge of place value to include five digit numbers. We use place value grids to help support this such as the number 13,345 would be placed as:

Ten thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
1	3	3	4	5

When we round, we look to the next number to see if it is 5 or higher or not. So, rounding this number to the nearest hundreds would be 13,300 but to the nearest tens would be 13,350. We will be exploring negative numbers as well as rounding, estimating and solving real life problems. We will also continue to focus on learning all the times tables up to 12 x 12 and becoming increasingly confident at recalling these facts ready for their multiplication check at the end of the year.

Key vocabulary the pupils need to know: digit, estimate, approximately, nearest, round

At home: Practise the four functions particularly times tables and mental quick fire addition and subtraction. <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> Please also ensure that your child is using the PiXL times table App daily to improve their scores (login details are located in their homework books.)

Physical Education

This term we will be improving our fitness – strength and stamina – through long distance running.

PE will be taught outside so please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing as the weather can be changeable.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day. PE Kit is **white t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers**. Please ensure that your child has a **black sweatshirt**.

For your child's safety, earrings must be removed before any PE lesson and long hair tied back.

Please keep their kits in school every day. We also **swim** each week at Spiceball Leisure Centre, so please ensure you child has a one piece swimming costume / fitted lycra shorts (not loose fitting), a swimming hat and towel.

Science

This term we will be conducting experiments looking into sound. We will link this to our work on different countries and in particular Spanish Carnivals. The children will experiment with creating instruments to help them understand how sound it made and how sound waves behave.

Geography

Our main topic this term is geography based. The children will be researching different countries across Europe looking at key cities, mountains and rivers as well as exploring the food and culture of that area. They will also be completing some map work using compass points, four figure grid references and keys.

At home: *Can you name the seven continents? How many countries in Europe do you know? Can you use a map to locate features in Banbury?*

History

We will also have a two week topic on history this term. Our driving question will be: **What proof is there that the Greeks had an impact on Britain?** We will look at the Greeks and find out what things we use today that the Greeks introduced. We will look at different sources and see which are reliable and for what reasons. On top of this, we will also look into crime and punishment as well as the life of children in Greek times.

REMINDERS AND DATES:

Uniform: Please make sure that all new uniform is clearly labelled in case it is misplaced. That way it can be returned to the correct class as soon as it is located.

Website: Remember to check the class pages regularly for newsletters, texts, updates and photos from work in class.

Homework: This will be **sent home** every **Friday** via Seesaw and is **due** in on the **Thursday** of the following week. Homework can be completed on Seesaw or in their homework books.

Dates:

Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day - school closed to all pupils
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day - School closed to all pupils
Thursday 3rd September	Term 1 begins - school open for all pupils in years 1-6 in Full school Uniform
Friday 18th September	Summer Home Learning project/s due in to share
Friday 23rd October	End of term 1
Monday 2nd October	Term 2 begins

Here is a copy of our class text for the beginning of this term:

The King's Beard

There was once a king who was given three wishes by a wizard. Now this king was particularly proud of his beard, which was very long and bushy and black and glossy. All of the people at his court used to praise the royal and magnificent beard and say that it was the best, the most marvellous, the most wonderful in all of the world. But the king wasn't sure. Somewhere in the world, there might be

someone with a bigger, finer beard. What if someone from his kingdom saw such a man and came and told his people? They'd say he only had the second best beard in all the world.

When he was told he had three wishes, the first of them was easy. As soon as he was alone, he wished for a beard that was the very best and biggest in the entire world. At once, the magic worked and he was surrounded by an amazing beard that filled the whole room, the whole castle, the whole town and even most of the countryside beyond.

But the king wasn't pleased. He could scarcely move for the incredible beard that was all around him and if he tried to do so, it tugged and pulled at his skin and it hurt so much that he wanted to cry. "Help!" he screamed desperately, "I wish I'd never ever grown a beard!" That was the second wish. As soon as the words were out of his mouth, his face was as smooth and pink as it had been when he was a baby. That didn't please him at all. How would he look now, a king famed far and wide for his beard? Now he'd not even one whisker?

So, the king used his third and final wish to get his beard back again, just as it had been before.