



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Year Four

Spring Term

English

In our story-writing topics, we will look at stories set in historical settings and stories from other cultures. We will also explore poetry with a particular emphasis on the use of spoken language. In our fiction writing, we will be developing the children's ability to use expressive, descriptive and figurative language. Our non-fiction topic will explore persuasive writing and will look at accurate and interesting sentence construction and punctuation. There will also be an emphasis on the organising and structuring of ideas. These will involve comprehension analysis i.e. information retrieval, deduction and inference, as well as investigating spelling patterns with an emphasis on suffixes.



Science

We will be learning about *States of Matter*, during which we will think about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will also be learning about *Electricity*. We will construct circuits, investigate common conductors and insulators and look at how switches work.



Maths

The term will begin by focusing on place value. We will then develop the children's addition and subtraction calculation skills, including mental and formal written methods. Written multiplication and division will also feature, so please keep up regular times tables practice. Other topics will include measures, fractions, decimals and their equivalence to fractions, angles and properties of shapes. Homework will continue to reinforce the topics covered in lessons.



Geography

Our Geography topics focus on both global and local geography. We start the term with the topic '*Weather around the World*' where we will investigate the different world climates and look at their relationship to tourism. We will use maps, books, the internet, and other secondary sources. Before we go to Sayers Croft, we will spend some time familiarising ourselves with the locality and discovering its geographical features.



Lesson Equipment

All children should come to school with a pencil case and the necessary equipment for the day.

This should include: pencil, sharpener, eraser, glue stick and a few colouring pencils.

We would appreciate any donations of tissues to help combat the usual winter colds!

PE Kits

P.E. kits will be needed in school every day.

Children require a pair of trainers and warmer clothing will be essential on those colder days.

Your child may not be allowed to participate in P.E. lessons without a full kit, including shoes.

Computing

Children will be creating a simple educational game this term using Scratch. They will also learn how to edit and write an HTML. As well as this, in Geography they will be presenting the weather using PowerPoint and video.



Religious Education & PSHE

We will be studying who Jesus really is, by looking at the "I am" sayings. We will be considering whether every Christian should go on a pilgrimage, which will lead on to the children planning a tour of local places of worship. In PSHE we will be looking at the theme of feelings and relationships.

PE

Indoor PE will consist of SMSP Dance Challenge and gymnastics, whilst outdoor PE will be tennis and multi-sport skill sessions.

P.E. kit will be needed in school all week. 4T and 4P will both start swimming lessons after the Easter Holidays.



Art & Design

For the first half-term we will be learning about and making food from around the world, which is linked to our Geography topic of 'Weather around the World'. Following this we will be reflecting on Journeys through Art and will be studying Aboriginal artwork. The children will be using the medium of textiles amongst other things.



Music

We will begin the 'Wider Opportunities' Programme with the Richmond Music Trust. This term we are focusing on singing skills.



French

This term we will be consolidating previous work as well as introducing countries, weather vocabulary and food choices.



Home learning

This will continue to be two home learning tasks per week – one for Maths and one for English (usually in the form of a spelling investigation). Maths tasks will alternate between written work and online abacus games. All home learning tasks will be set on a Thursday, and should be returned by the following Tuesday. The children will be expected to practice their times tables at home each week as they will be tested weekly during mental Maths lessons.

Reading a variety of texts is important, even for the most able readers, and we would appreciate it if you would encourage home reading and discussion of the content to ensure good comprehension skills. Finally, providing a box of tissues and any glue sticks would also be greatly appreciated.

Also a big welcome back to Mrs Novak!!!

Dates

4T Class Assembly	18th January
4P Class Assembly	25th January
Sayers Croft Meeting	27th February
Church Pilgrimages Trip	28th February
Sayers Croft	3rd—5th April