September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Finches, Year 4.

I hope you have had a lovely, restful summer, and are looking forward to the academic year ahead. I am very much looking forward to teaching this wonderful class again and progressing through the year together. During each week Finches will be supported by Mrs Vickers, Mrs Stephen and Mrs Baba.

I am mindful that the transition into a new school year can sometimes cause apprehension and anxiety for some children; please be assured that the children can talk to staff about any concerns or worries they may be having. Similarly, if you have any concerns, or wish to discuss any matters relating to your child, please do not hesitate to contact the office to arrange a phone call, or meeting with me.

I would appreciate your continued support in ensuring children have the correct equipment in school each day (a reading book, pencil, pen and a glue stick!), and that they arrive at school punctually each morning. The end of the day arrangements will be as in previous years – the children are collected from outside the classroom. It is important that the children let me know before they leave the school site with their parent/carer. If there are any changes to pick-up arrangements, please do inform the office detailing the change and your password.

PE Days

This year the children will have their PE lessons on a Monday afternoon and a Thursday morning. On these days, the children should arrive at school in their PE kit. Please note that some PE lessons will take place outside, so as the weather gets colder, please make sure they have navy-blue bottoms and a school sweatshirt to keep them warm. Year 4 will begin their swimming sessions in the Spring Term on a Thursday morning.

The Curriculum

In Year 4, we will be covering some exciting topics throughout the curriculum. Within these varied topics, a wide range of approaches are used to engage the children in the learning. Where possible, links between subjects have been made to enhance their learning further.

This term in English, we will be studying the text, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo and *Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells. Both texts will prove valuable stimuli for poetry, diary writing, formal letter writing, newspaper reports, story writing, character descriptions and playscript.

The Geography topic is Settlements and Trade – where the children will be learning about the significance and importance of types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

In Maths we will be learning about place value to 10,000 followed by addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and fractions. All strands of Maths are taught through the curriculum aims of fluency, problem solving and reasoning.

On Monday mornings, Miss Jones will be further consolidating the children’s English and Maths/Arithmetic skills.

This term, in Science, the children will be learning about Sound, followed by States of Matter later in the term.

In Art, the children will be exploring Power Prints, exploring tone to create a 3D effect through the artists, Ed Ruscha and Georges Seurat.

In Design and Technology the children will be exploring mechanisms and levers to design and make pop up books.

Music lessons will focus upon body and tuned percussion and rock and roll.

In RE the children will be investigating how Hindus understand God and what role does worship play in the life of a Hindu.

In Computing this term, the children will learn about computing systems and networks and creating media and audio production.

Our focus in PE will be the Real PE social and personal cogs. These skills will then be put into practice in Complete PE sessions incorporating tennis and later basketball.

Our French topics for the term include numbers, days, dates, months, birthdays, weather and Christmas.

 Finally, in PSHE, we will focus on ‘being me in my world’ celebrating differences.

Home Learning

Each week, Home Learning will be set on Teams. The routines and expectations are outlined below. Children are encouraged to continue to use Times Tables Rock Stars to support their learning, as well as….

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject and Detail** | **Day Given** | **Day Returned** |
| ReadingRegular reading and discussion of a text with an adult. This should be logged on BoomReader. A minimum of 15 minutes, 4 times per week. | Friday | Friday |
| Spellings – Spelling sentences/Spelling activity – Set on Teams. Words linked to spelling pattern taught – daily practice | Tuesday(daily practice) | Tuesday(test in class) |
|  |  |  |
| Home Learning Choice – Set on TeamsSelect a Home Learning Choice activity from the grid and complete to the best of your ability.  | Thursday | Thursday |



I hope this will be a successful and enjoyable first term of Year 4 for your child. It is a privilege to teach this class again. I look forward to working alongside you in fostering their love of learning and achievements. If you have any queries, please do come and speak to me via the appropriate channel.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Burgess

Finches, Year 4 Class Teacher