

## Year 4 Autumn 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! I am so pleased to be your child's teacher this year! We've got an amazing year ahead and I can't wait to get started!

Our topic this term is **Iron Man**. Each subject will link to this topic to ensure children make connections and develop a depth of knowledge.

In **Literacy** we will be studying the text *Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and *Robot Girl* by Malorie Blackman. Both centre on robots and will no doubt result in gripping pieces of writing! Whether it's a menu for Iron Man or a newspaper report detailing the destruction of the robot, we will be reviewing our basics while exploring how to use more sophisticated sentence structures and punctuation.

More than ever, **Reading** is a huge support to the aspects of literacy we will be studying this half term. Our class text this term is *Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest*. A highly illustrated fiction series about a determined young inventor, from award-winning author Vashti Hardy. It is an engaging book which is a mash-up of robots, conversationism and school. I loved reading it!

In **Maths** we will be focusing on place value. After a review of last year's learning, we will move on to numbers up to 10,000. By building on previous knowledge, children should quickly progress to comparing, sequencing and rounding numbers. Times tables will be ongoing focus as well. By the end of year 4, children are expected to know all their times tables, up to 12 x 12, fluently. For this reason we will practise them regularly and I appreciate efforts to do this at home as well. I will be distributing logins to Times Table Rockstars to support this.

Our topic for **Science** this term is animals, including humans. The class will be answering the question *Producer, predator or prey; is an animal only one?* Through the unit children will construct and interpret food chains as well as identifying the basic parts of the digestive system in humans. In addition, they will study the different types of teeth in humans and their functions.

In **Computing** we will be learning how to be software developers. We will be using the program Scratch to help us create a game which uses a range of selection functions. It will build on their learning from Year 3 and challenge them to make a more complicated game. They will need to draw upon their debugging skills to ensure their games run smoothly!

In **History** we will be learning about the Iron Age and working through the term to answer this term's big question: *The discovery of iron changed everything. Do you agree?* We will begin by revisiting our previous learning and constructing a timeline to develop our chronological awareness. Children will study the process of smelting and compare the different advancements iron brought. Hillforts will be examined and the reasons why they were necessary. Finally, children will look at the impact of the invention of iron today.

In **PE** children will be learning the rules and strategies of Football and Hockey. As always, teamwork and cooperation will be a focus. PE will be on **Monday afternoon** and **Tuesday afternoon**. Please ensure your child comes to school **in their PE kit** on those days.

In **Art** the children will be focusing on sculpture and studying both the medieval craft of metalwork and the contemporary work of the American sculptor Alexander Calder. Children will use flexible wire to create portraits of the Iron Man inspired by the portraits Calder made.

In **RE** we will spend this half term learning about Buddhism and answering the big question *Is it possible for everyone to be happy?* By learning about the Buddha's life story, the significant experiences of Siddhattha and the 8-fold path, children will develop an understanding of a Buddhist's key beliefs and the impact they have on an individual.

In **PSHE** (Personal, Social, Health Education) we will be focusing on our health and wellbeing. From our physical health to our mental health, we will take a balanced approach to ensure children are feeling happy and safe. Like last year, we will have a class 'worry box' to allow children to voice any concerns in an anonymous way.

In **Music** we will be continuing with recorders again and focusing on pulse, rhythm, pitch, harmony and reading music. As every child in Year 3 was given a recorder, please bring these back when possible so lessons can commence. Lessons are on a **Wednesday** so please remind your child to bring their recorder.

For homework this first half term, we will be using the homework grid which will be stuck into children's homework books. The children have the freedom to choose which three pieces of work they want to complete. They will then bring it in on Wednesday 20th October for a class exhibition. If you have any questions, concerns or problems please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Reading continues to be the most useful and important thing you can do at home with your child. In Key Stage 2 they should be reading for at least 20 minutes independently every night and making at least three entries in their reading record a week. Children may take books home from school but only bring them back in- when they have finished them- on Wednesdays. Reading records should be brought in every Wednesday to be checked.

Kind Regards,

Kate