



# Year 4

## Half Termly Update

### Autumn 2

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to another exciting half term in Year 4! In this update you will find out what your child will be learning this term. PE days will be on Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure your child has their full PE kit. We are planning an exciting trip to the Science Museum this term and more details will follow. Please remind your children to practise their timetables using Doodle tables.

#### English – writing

The children will start the term by writing a poem about fireworks, using poetic techniques such as onomatopoeia. They will learn to organise their ideas in stanzas. They will then write a descriptive narrative based on Michael Morpurgo's *The Butterfly Lion*, using expanded noun phrases and personification to describe the characters and setting. We will also read and research information about Nigeria. The children will write a persuasive leaflet, encouraging the reader to visit Nigeria.

#### English - reading

The children will read *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo. We will be continuing to build the children's comprehension skills and also really ramping up their retrieval and inference skills. We will discuss events in the book as well as ask questions to improve their understanding. The children will also read information about Nigeria and do their own internet research. Please continue to ask your children questions about the books they are reading at home.

#### Maths

The children will learn about length (mm, cm, m, km), perimeter and area. They will then develop their knowledge about multiplication and division, including strategies for learning times tables and recalling and division facts. In our final week of this term, Year 4 will develop their knowledge about fractions, using diagrams to aid their understanding. We will also explore families of common equivalent fractions. In our arithmetic session, we will continue revise key skills and the four operations.

## Science: Electricity

In Science this half term we will be learning about electricity. The children will learn to identify common appliances that run on electricity using a sorting activity. They will construct a simple series electrical circuit which includes cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Children will predict if a lamp will light or not in a simple series circuit based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery. Children will learn that a switch opens and closes a circuit by associating this with whether a bulb will work. They will explore conductors and insulators and know that metals are good conductors. They will also carry out a practical experiment to test if various materials conduct electricity.

## Religious Education: What does it mean to be a Hindu living in Britain today?

Children will learn about how Hindus show their faith. They will learn about prayer and worship at home and in a mandir. They will also learn about Diwali, as well as how and why it is celebrated. They will learn about Mahatma Gandhi as a Hindu hero, and about Hindus living in Britain today. They will compare Hinduism to other religions and discuss the similarities and differences.

## History: Benin

Children will learn about the Kingdom of Benin. They will explore some artefacts from the Benin Kingdom and discuss what they teach us about life in that period of history. They will use evidence to learn about daily life and explore significant achievements, including impressive bronze works and other crafts. They will learn about the importance of looking at evidence critically and will explore different interpretations of the past. They will also explore the reliability of primary and secondary sources.

## Homework

Children need to read at home every day, and write a comment in their reading diary. The children should use Doodle Maths / Tables every day. Homework club is available to support with this. Weekly spelling will be given on Friday. Please practise the spellings with your child.

## Spanish

Year 4 will be learning numbers up to 31. They will learn to talk about what they want and ask questions to others. They will also learn new vocabulary.

## Physical Education:

Year 4 are continuing with 'Invasion Games'. This term, they will be playing Handball and Basketball. Handball will be taught by Joseph - a coach from Arsenal FC who is sharing his expertise with the children.