

Westbury Park Newsletter

Year 4

Term 3 2020

Happy New Year! Thank you for all of the presents and kind words at the end of a busy Term 2, which had many highlights, including a trip to Caerleon and Roman Day amongst the usual end of year festivities. Thank you for all of your support so far with these and other events in school - your help really does make a difference to us and the children's experience.

Curriculum

For this term, the bulk of our topic work will revolve around wolves, driving both fiction and non-fiction writing over the coming weeks. In **English** we will be using Neil Gaiman's *The Wolves in the Walls* as inspiration for the children to produce their own piece of suspense writing. Along the way, the children will develop their use of suspense techniques, as well as focussing on 'Show Not Tell' as a method to inform their reader of their character's feelings and thoughts. Towards the end of the term, we will be creating a non-chronological report on wolves, focussing on using paragraphs and a range of sentence structures to help structure our writing.

In **mathematics** this term we will continue to develop our multiplication and division skills. We are currently on the 7x table booklet so supporting your child to have a rapid recall of these number facts will be invaluable. In addition, we will introduce the x11 and x12 Times Tables, learn efficient methods to multiply, before moving on to formal written methods. This will include short multiplication and short division (bus stop method). Please review the calculation policy to support your child. Towards the end of the term we may also review and extend our understanding of measurement- namely 'area'.

Our **Science** topic this term will focus on 'digestion and teeth', looking at how animals have different characteristics that are adapted specifically for their environment. If you are or know a dentist that would be able to come in to talk to the children- please get in touch.

This term we will also be starting a new topic in **history** - 'Crime and Punishment'. We will be developing our understanding of what a crime is and how different periods of time dealt with it. We are lucky enough to have a parent who works in forensics who has offered to come and talk to the children about this aspect to modern policing.

French with Mrs. Hann will continue on Tuesday afternoons. In **JIGSAW**, the theme is 'Healthy Me'. Children will be exploring how to stay fit and healthy in both body and mind.

Computing, this term children will continue to focus on Coding to focus on using random numbers and simulations. This will also be supported with lessons regarding safely using technology including the internet.

We will be continuing with our **PE** sessions at Horfield Leisure Centre on a Monday afternoon. The children should remember to wear their PE kit **including tracksuit bottoms, a warm top and trainers** please every Monday. Gloves would also be welcomed on a chilly afternoon!

Swimming will continue on a Thursday morning (starting on the 16th January) until February half term with 4L leaving at 9.00 and 4J leaving at 9.30. Please make sure the children have their swimming costumes and towels in school on Thursday mornings. If you have borrowed swimming kit in the past, could you please check it has been returned as we are missing some of our spare kit, including all of the boys' swimming trunks. Additionally, if you have any old swimming costumes or trunks that we could use to replenish our stock, they would be very gratefully received!

Home Learning

Children will continue to be given spellings every week to be tested on a Friday via dictation.

Times tables' tests continue this term. We test them daily and will be moving on to our x7, x9 tables. Please continue to support revision of the times tables and remind the children that they already have known facts. Eg 7x5 should already be known, if they know 5x7. We recommend a mixture of online maths games as well as traditional rote learning. We are aiming for all children to know their tables up to the 12 x table ahead of the statutory tests later in the year.

We encourage reading every night please as this is such an important year in terms of their reading development.

We are also still setting some form of homework each week in addition to reading, spelling and times table practice. This homework will alternate between a literacy based task and a page or two from the CGP maths workbook. The children will receive their homework instructions on Google Classroom every Tuesday but they will have the option to either complete the homework electronically or on paper.

Dates for the diary:

Monday 6th January- INSET

Tuesday 7th January- first day back for children

Monday 9th January- Offsite PE

Thursday 16th January- First Swimming

Friday 7th February - Enrichment

Tuesday 11th February- Safer Internet Day

Thursday 14th February- Last swimming session of Year 4

May half term **Wolves in the Walls production on at Bristol Old Vic**

Thank you again for your continued support and please don't hesitate to pop in and say hello or ask any questions you may have!