

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Year 4 parents/carers,

### Year 4 Curriculum Letter – Spring 1

#### Message from the teachers

Welcome back, Year 4. We hope you had an amazing Christmas and spent some wonderful, quality time with your family. It's back to school now with the beginning of a new year, new goals and new topics! We hope you're as excited and as energised as we are! Some new things to look forward to is our new buddying reading system, where Year four will be going to the Infants to read with the Year one children. We will also introduce 'Show and Tell' sessions where your child will be able to stand in front of the class and talk about something they have done or bring in an item that is important to them and talk about it. This is to help the children build confidence and self-esteem.

#### Our Core Values

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

#### Year 4 Staffing

Juniper class teacher: Miss Evans

Spruce class teacher: Mrs Culham

Year 4 learning support assistants: Mrs Wilson, Miss Heffernan and Mrs Eyre

#### Communication

You can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within two working days.

juniperclass@harefieldjunior.com

spruceclass@harefieldjunior.com

#### Homework

Homework, along with answers, will be emailed to parents every Monday.

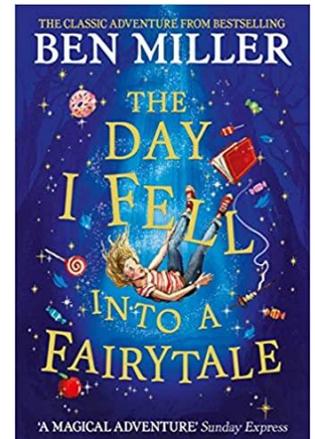
A home reading book will sent home every Monday and should be returned by the Friday.

#### Spring Term Learning

This half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

#### English

This half term we will be developing our writing skills with a portal story called 'Elf Road'. We will learn the story first using a text map while building up our grammar knowledge before starting to innovate our own version of this text. We will be reading Ben Miller's 'The Day I fell into a Fairy Tale' to support our writing. Once we have finished this narrative unit, we will begin our non-narrative, which is a persuasive leaflet. We will use the model text 'The Magic Bean Store' as an example of good writing while using Ben Miller's book for further inspiration!



#### Mathematics

In maths this half term, year 4 will be continuing to finish their multiplication and division unit before moving onto area and fractions. These units cover the formal written method for multiplying and dividing, understanding area and leading from equivalent fractions to adding and subtracting them!

This is an example of a word problem the children might be given to develop their reasoning skills in fractions:

It is an example of a 'reasoning' question where the children are encouraged to explain their answer using mathematical strategies as proof.

Tommy is finding equivalent fractions.

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{5}{6} = \frac{7}{8} = \frac{9}{10}$$

He says,



I did the same thing to the numerator and the denominator so my fractions are equivalent.

Do you agree with Tommy?  
Explain your answer.

We will continue to practise our times tables regularly in preparation for the Y4 times table assessments that children are sitting in summer. Please help the children prepare for this at home by following this helpful link to a suggested website: <https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> or the website called [Hit the button](#).

### Science

The year 4 science unit this half term is titled 'In a State'. Children will learn the characteristic properties of solids, liquids and gases, first through physically exploring typical materials and then by classifying examples, such as powders and viscous liquids, which are harder to classify. Using first-hand experience and secondary sources they will learn about changes of state and begin to understand freezing and boiling points as identifying characteristics of a material.

### History

'Romans' is the title for the year 4 history unit this half term. In this unit, the children will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on the lives of the Celts. They will consider whether the Roman settlement was a positive experience for all involved, and explore the long-term legacy of the invasion. They will use a variety of sources of evidence to investigate the topic, including visual sources of artefacts.

### Art and Design

In this collection of lessons, the children will learn and develop their skills in: design, drawing, craft, painting and art appreciation; creating an optical illusion print, replicating a plate in the famous willow pattern, carving sculptures out of soap, drawing a collection of still life objects, painting and mixing colours like Paul Cézanne and learning about the role of a 'curator'.



### Physical Education

The two P.E. units in year 4 this half term are 'Gym Sequences' and 'Step to the Beat'. The Sport unit looks to practise a variety of balancing skills – creating sequences alone and with others, investigating the effect of symmetry and asymmetry in movements. By the end of the unit, the children will be encouraged to evaluate their own and others' sequences. Step to the Beat encourages children to understand the importance of a 'warm up', develop coordination and balance while creating routines to improve fitness.

Please ensure children come in to school wearing weather appropriate clothing in line with the school uniform policy.

### French

The first unit, this half term, is about describing someone's appearance, including eye and hair colour and characteristics such as how happy or serious they are. The unit teaches the position of adjectives in a sentence and how the adjective changes to 'agree' with the noun it describes (masculine, feminine, singular, plural). Starting with the subject of painting and the Louvre in Paris to build cultural awareness, the children complete the unit by writing a description of one of their friends in French. In the second unit, the topic 'les vêtements' teaches the children to learn to recognise several items of clothing, understand the different forms of the indefinite article and possessive adjective as well as practice using the correct adjectival agreement and describe what people are wearing.

### Religious Education

The theme for Year 4 this half term will be looking at a different aspect of Buddhism. Specifically, the teachings of the Buddha and exploring what he taught about change. The children will, over several lessons, discuss the key question: Could the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place?

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

'Dreams & Goals' is the third PSHE unit, where the children will discuss their own dreams and goals and hopefully set some suitable goals for themselves to achieve over the year. In this unit, we discuss how sometimes we face disappointment when we don't achieve our dreams or goals and how best we can overcome this. We will aim to set new goals using our experience of disappointment to help us overcome obstacles in the future.

Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully

Miss Evans and Mrs Culham