



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 1



Welcome to Year 4! It has been wonderful to have the children back and for school to be returning to normality. The children have approached the start of the new school year with maturity and enthusiasm, and we are all looking forward to the term ahead

This newsletter provides information for you about school routines and what your child will be learning in their first term in Year 4.

Topic

This term, our topic is called 'Earth Matters'. This is a science and geography-based topic in which we will be finding out about plate tectonics, earthquakes, and the water cycle, with a focus on the continent of North America. In science, we will be studying the states of matter and learning about evaporation and condensation. We will also include a number of other curriculum areas, such as English, maths and art, as shown in the attached topic web.

Homework

This term, the children will be bringing home a pick and mix homework menu and book! This gives the children a variety of tasks to choose from **in addition** to their nightly reading and weekly Mathletics tasks (see below). These tasks are linked to our topic, maths and literacy objectives for the term. Children can choose the tasks that appeal to them most and earn stars for each activity completed. There are a suggested minimum number of stars to achieve each term, with certificates for those who meet (or exceed!) this target. The menu will be sent home in their new homework book each half term. This book can be used to complete any work that requires recording (not all tasks will need to be written in the book) or work can be submitted via Teams. Their homework books should be handed in every week on a Monday.

Reading

Children are expected to read at home **every day**. This is not necessarily for long periods of time (ten minutes is fine). If you have heard your child read, please sign their reading record. We will support your child in school through guided reading activities to aid their learning.

The children have all been given their first reading book for the year - there is a sticker inside their reading record with targets related to their stage.

Spellings

We will continue to practise weekly spellings in class each week. As in Year 3, these will not be formally tested, but revisited regularly to help them to become embedded. Each week, new words will be posted on Teams so they can also practise at home - ideas for how to do this is also on Teams and in their homework books.

Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars

Mathletics will be used to support the weekly maths taught in class - and tasks will be set for the children to complete each week. These will be set each Monday to be completed by the following Monday. Times Tables Rockstars is a fantastic way to help support children with their times tables - they should aim to play around 3 times a week (little and often is more effective than one longer session).

Logins for both can be found in your child's reading record book.

Times Tables

Times tables will be tested weekly on a Tuesday and will be tailored to each child's specific areas for development. They will have a file of supporting work to help at home including flashcards. More information on this, and the new mandatory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will follow shortly.

P.E. and Daily Mile

Our P.E. days are Monday and Tuesday. Please send your child to school in jogging bottoms/leggings and black trainers (if possible) on this day. **Please can we ask that any children with pierced ears do not wear their earrings on this day.** We will be continuing to run the Daily Mile on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Forest School

Forest school sessions will be on a Thursday morning with Mrs Fisher. These will be with half of the class at a time - so each child will have a forest school session every fortnight. On this day, children can wear their normal uniform but should bring suitable footwear and a waterproof coat as we will go out in (almost) any weather!

Character Education

This term, our Character Education virtues are:

Caring Helpfulness Cooperation

More details can be found on the class topic web.

Twitter

Look out for photos of what we get up to in class on Twitter (follow us at @NewMillsPrimary).

Music Lessons

We are very lucky to have music lessons in Year 4 with the Derbyshire Music Partnership, starting on the 15th September. Clarinets will be coming home after the first few weeks!

Book Bags

Please may we ask that children only bring in a book bag each day. As lovely as they are, large back packs take up significant space in our very small cloakrooms and inevitably end up on the floor which is a trip and fire hazard. Thank you!

Science and RE days

This term our Science day will be Tuesday 13th October and our RE day will be Tuesday 19th October. Look out for photos of all the fun activities involved on Twitter.

Hopefully this newsletter will answer many of the questions you may have about returning to school, but if you have any further queries do not hesitate to get in touch - my email address is:

c.broadley@newmills-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

Many thanks, Charlotte Broadley