



Year 4

Autumn Term 2017

Curriculum News letter

Class Teachers: Catriona Burrows, Jette Rayner, Amy Gowan

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you have had an enjoyable and restful summer and are ready for a new and exciting academic year. We look forward to meeting you all and getting to know your children. This letter includes useful information about Year 4.

In **English**, we will be focusing on stories and poetry from other cultures. The children will be writing and performing group and individual poems inspired by African Praise Poetry as well as writing short stories linked to our topic 'Amazing Africa'.

In the second half term, our topic will be Hinduism. Children will write playscripts, instructions and recounts. Grammar, comprehension and spelling will be taught throughout the week within the English session. Children will be tested on their spellings every Friday.

In **Maths** we will be following the Year 4 National Curriculum which includes number work, properties of shape, position and direction, measurement and data handling. We will also be encouraging children to develop investigative strategies to solve numerical problems. Children will continue to develop their mental maths strategies and consolidate times tables facts. The children will have a times tables test every Friday.

In **Science** our topics will be **Animals Including Humans** in which children will learn about the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system, identify the different types of teeth in humans, learn about their functions and construct and interpret a variety of food chains. After half term, our topic will be **Electricity**. Children will construct simple circuits, investigate which materials are the best electrical conductors and use this information to make switches.

In Autumn 1, our topic is **Amazing Africa**. We will be learning all about **Hinduism** in Autumn 2

This half term's topic, Amazing Africa, will have a geography focus. We will be using atlases and maps to look at geographical features and learn about the 'invisible' lines on the Earth. We will look at some political aspects of life in Africa such as Apartheid and key figures such as Nelson Mandela.

In **Art** this term, we will be using oil pastels to create work inspired by the Ndebele in South Africa. We will also be making African masks and creating 3D African animals. In **Music** we

will be focusing on African music through singing traditional songs, dancing, drumming and storytelling.

In Autumn 2, we will be learning all about **Hinduism**. Children will explore how Hindus celebrate their faith. They will also learn about various festivals, places of worship and Hindu rituals and stories. The children will have the opportunity to visit a Hindu temple. Please check the board for dates for this trip closer to the time.

We would be delighted if you have any resources or expertise relating to our topic and would be interested in sharing this with the children. Please get in touch with your class teacher.

In **PE** our focus for this half term will be net & ball games and gymnastics. PE will be taught on a Monday (4AG), Tuesday (4CB) and Wednesday (4JR) by the class teacher. On Fridays, children will either swim or have PE with a specialist teacher. The children will be playing team games as part of their games unit. By the end of the unit, we hope that the children will develop confidence to work as a team and use skills and tactics appropriate for the type of game. By the end of their gymnastic unit, we hope children will be able to use different parts of their bodies to move into and form balances with control and accuracy.

It is essential that children have their PE kits in school everyday. This includes a Rhodes Avenue T-shirt (available from the school office), shorts, jogging bottoms, warm top and appropriate footwear. Children will be asked to remove or cover earrings before taking part in their PE session.

In **Music** children will be composing, performing and appraising their own music as well as developing an appreciation of different composers and purposes of music. Music lessons will be linked to topic. Children will also have the opportunity to perform songs during their class assemblies and the Christmas show.

Our **School Values** for this academic year are: 'Co-operation', 'Empathy', 'Fairness', 'Forgiveness', 'Kindness' and 'Loyalty'.

Homework

Homework at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of homework is to develop pupil independence, resilience and resourcefulness. They should be able to complete their homework with minimal adult support, however if your child does struggle with the homework provided please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher. Children will be expected to learn spellings and times tables on a weekly basis as well as completing a maths task to consolidate their learning during the week.

Spellings and times tables: sent out on Friday to be learned for the following Friday's test.

Grammar: sent out on Friday to be returned by Monday.

Maths: sent out Wednesday to be returned by Friday.

Reading: every night. Reading record will be sent home on a Friday to be signed and returned on Monday.

Other Information: Swimming

One class will swim each term. **4JR** will be swimming during the **autumn** term, **4AG** will attend swimming sessions during the **spring** term and **4CB** during the **summer** term. The children in the class that are swimming, must arrive at school by 8.45am on Friday mornings.

Important autumn term dates for your diaries:

Half term	Monday 23 rd October-Friday 27 th October
Parents' Evenings	Wednesday 15 th and Thursday 16 th November
End of term	Thursday 21 st December

Educational visits

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school. We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using public transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

Healthy Schools

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School please ensure that your child's playtime snack is fresh fruit and/or vegetables. Water will always be available during the school day however we are happy for you to **bring into school, a bottle of water clearly labelled.**

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We are looking forward to working with you,

Catriona Burrows, Jette Rayner & Amy Gowan

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