

Autumn 2019 Class Newsletter

USA

Class Teachers: Miss Lyons/Mrs Martin-Wells

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new term ahead. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note.

Important dates for USA Class:

- Forest School: Rainforest Super Starter Day – Thursday 19th September
- Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 25th September – 6:00pm
- Harvest Fayre – Saturday 28th September
- Individual school photos – Thursday 10th October
- USA Class Assembly – Friday 18th October
- Year 4 Trip to Drusillas Zoo Park – Monday 21st October
- Half Term – Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November
- INSET Day – Monday 4th November
- Parents Evening – Wednesday 13th November
- Lodge Hill Activity Day – Friday 15th November

Now that the children are in Year 4, we are keen to ensure that they continue to develop their independence and organisational skills. The children can arrive on the back playground any time from 8:30am in the mornings and should stay there until the whistle is blown by the member of staff on duty at 8:45am. They do not need to enter the school building before this time unless they are attending Early Birds. Thank you for your support with this. We are fortunate to have the beautiful new library adjacent to the Year 4 classrooms; this means that our cloakroom is now located in the main Key Stage 2 corridor, next to Ireland Class (grey pegs). Water bottles can be brought into the classroom for the children to have access to throughout the day. The children should bring a healthy snack, such as fruit or a cereal bar, to eat at morning break.

Please note that we are a nut free school and foods brought into school must not contain traces of nuts.

Homework:

- Reading logs: Please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading at least three times per week and this is signed and dated. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading, and is a key dialogue between home and school. Reading logs will be collected on Fridays but should be in school every day.
- Weekly spellings will be sent home on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. Each week's spellings will include a particular spelling pattern and some of the Year 4 common exception words.
- Homework: The children will be given a homework grid containing Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic activities in their homework books. We would like each child to complete six homework tasks in the first half of term and six homework tasks in the second half of term. The children can choose from any of the activities in the grid, however, their choices must include at least two Literacy tasks and two Maths tasks each half term. Further details have been provided in a letter in your child's homework book.
- Please sign your child's homework book weekly to indicate how much help/where help has been given and ensure that it is returned to school each Thursday.
- TT Rockstars and My Maths:
  We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. This has shown significant improvements in the children's fluency and speed of recall. Please do encourage your children to practice their Times Tables at home on a weekly basis. At the end of last term, letters were sent out introducing My Maths, an

interactive online program to support Maths learning. This provides the children with the opportunity to link homework activities to their class based learning and enable them to consolidate the skills that have been taught. Please ask if you have any questions regarding this.

PE:

Swimming lessons will be taking place on Tuesday mornings this term and continuing for as long as the weather allows! Verruca socks must be worn if required; these can be purchased from the local chemist or pharmacy. Please make sure that girls with long hair have a swimming hat. Sun cream or hair gel should not be applied before swimming.

We require written consent if you would like your child to wear goggles for our Swimming lessons.

When Swimming ends, we will begin our Gymnastics unit and this will take place on Monday afternoons.

Games will be taught by coaching staff from Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club on Friday mornings and will take place outside, weather permitting. Children should have t-shirts, shorts, outdoor shoes, long trousers and a jumper or tracksuit for outdoors in their PE kits. Please ensure that children's PE kits are brought in on a Monday morning and remain in school all week. All kit should be clearly named, long hair tied back and earrings must be removed for all PE sessions. As PE is a statutory part of the curriculum, we will require a written note if your child is unable to take part in a lesson.

Theme for the term – Rumble in the Jungle:

We are looking forward to beginning this term's fantastic topic in which the children will be learning all about the rainforest! We will begin our learning journey by decorating our classrooms with a variety of rainforest plants and creatures to inspire our learning. Much of our literacy and geography work will be centred around this exciting theme where we will be learning about issues such as deforestation and how to protect rainforest environments.

Literacy:

Here are the main themes we will follow during the term. This year, you will notice that we will have timetabled fewer units to enable us to cover them in greater depth and ensure the children become familiar with the requirements for each genre.

- Descriptive writing
- Letter writing

Numeracy:

- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division
- Geometry

Science:

Our Science topic for this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats.' This will be closely linked to our Rainforest theme and will include learning more about the characteristics of living things and how they can be classified. We will also investigate the impact that environmental changes can have on living things.

RE:

This term the children will be exploring the themes of Creation, Incarnation and Sikhism.

Computing:

This term the children will be focusing on e-Safety, where we will discuss how to use technology appropriately and the importance of keeping safe online. They will also be developing their word processing skills.

Geography:

We will begin by locating rainforest environments and describing their climates and physical features. We will then be looking at the different layers of the rainforest and understanding the importance of rainforest resources.

Art and DT:

Art will be based on Henri Rousseau and in DT we will be making headdresses inspired by the Brazilian carnivals.

Music:

We will be taking part in the 'Term to Learn' scheme run by West Sussex Music Service this term. The children will be learning the clarinet. This will be taught by Mrs Eames, a specialist Music teacher, who will visit the school on Thursday mornings.

MFL:
Miss Bell will continue to teach Spanish to the children. This will take place during my PPA time on Friday mornings.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an open door policy so, if you have any concerns, please feel free to pop in and speak to me after school. Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007 or arrange an appointment at the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Lyons and Mrs Martin-Wells
USA Class Teachers