



# Autumn 2020 Class Newsletter USA

Class Teachers: Mrs Martin-Wells and Miss Lyons

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:

- Meet the Teacher Zoom - Wednesday 23rd September - 4:00pm
- Individual school photos - Tuesday 29th September
- INSET Day - Friday 23rd October
- Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
- PROVISIONAL - Clubs start - Monday 2nd November
- Individual zoom Parents evening - Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November (15 minute appointments)
- Anti-Bullying week - Week of 16th November
- Clubs finish - Friday 11th December
- Last day of term - Friday 18th December

Now that the children are in Year 4, we are keen to ensure that they continue to develop their independence and organisational skills. From Friday 11th September, after an initial temperature check at their designated time on the front playground, children will be expected to walk independently to their classrooms.

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. 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
- Reading logs will be collected on Mondays. They will be quarantined and kept in a sealed box for 48 hours and we will mark them and send them home on Wednesday for the rest of the week. When the library is up and running, books borrowed will be returned using a box system before others read them.

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.

- Spellings  
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.

Children will be given new spelling lists each Tuesday. They will stick their word lists in their orange spelling books which will remain in school. Spelling word lists will be emailed to parents so the children can practise their spellings at home. Tests to be completed in orange books each Tuesday.

- Homework Books:  
Homework books will be sent home on Friday. These will contain a homework grid for the whole of the Autumn term containing a grid with Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic activities. We would like the children to complete one piece of homework in their homework book each week, but keep their homework books at home. We will look at homework each Wednesday. We ask that you as parents photograph or scan the children's homework tasks and email to teachers via our class email address. [usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)

- TT Rockstars, Numbots 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 practise 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. We also have access to Numbots which focuses on KS1 recall facts for Maths, which some children may want to use and revisit. The login will be sent home with the TTRockstars login.

#### PE:

This half term we will be using Cricket to practise our striking and fielding skills. We will be working to improve our batting, striking balls with accuracy and control and using different shots in games. We will also be developing different ways of throwing and catching and making use of space within games. We will develop our skills in Athletics, where we will be practising sprinting and relay races, performing the triple jump and throwing javelins at increased distances. We will also be doing dance this term, which will be taught both inside and outside (weather dependent).

#### 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.

#### English:

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

Throughout the term, Miss Lyons will be exploring an 'Author of the Week'.

Maths:

- 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 introduced to a new online computing platform called Purple Mash. The children will soon be given individual logins for use in and out of school. This term we will be focusing on coding, e-Safety and then spreadsheets. 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:

This term we will be composing and performing.

MFL:

Ms Vanieris will be teaching Spanish to the children. This will take place during PPA time on Wednesdays.

RHE (Relationship and Health Education):

Although as a school we have already been teaching this subject throughout all year groups, this has now become statutory to be taught in all schools. This term we will be learning about the harmful effects of drugs and tobacco, how to recognise bullying and then looking at equality within society. All lessons are age-appropriate and tailored specifically to the year group.

I hope this has been helpful. I have an open door policy so, if you have any concerns, please send me an email on [usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk) Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007 or arrange an appointment at the School Office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Martin-Wells and Miss Lyons  
USA Class Teacher