



# Autumn 2021 Class Newsletter USA

**Class Teachers: Mrs Gowland and 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:**

- Non-school uniform day for Harvest Fayre - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September
- After school clubs to start in zones - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September
- Individual school photos - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Meet the Teacher Zoom - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September - 3.30pm
- Half Term - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October
- Inset Day - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November
- Individual Parents' Evening - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November (via the School cloud) 3.30pm - 6pm
- Anti-Bullying week - Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Last day of term - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, children will be expected to walk independently to their classrooms from the front gate.

We are fortunate to have the beautiful library adjacent to the Year 4 classrooms; this means that our cloakroom is now located in the main Key Stage 2 corridor, opposite 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 should be brought in every day and children are encouraged to use these logs to keep a record of their reading at home and school. 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 that 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

These 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 a new spelling list each **Tuesday**. Spelling word lists will be put on Google Classroom so the children can practise their spellings at home.

- **Homework:**

Homework will be sent home via Google Classroom. A homework grid for the whole of the Autumn term containing a grid with Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic activities can be found on Google Classroom. We would like the children to complete one piece of homework weekly and this can be sent in via Google Classroom or via the class email [usa@stmarysprimarpulborough.co.uk](mailto:usa@stmarysprimarpulborough.co.uk), either photographs of work, PowerPoint presentations or children can bring in a piece of work to show.

- **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. Also, we will be continuing to use 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 TT Rockstars login.

**PE:**

This half term we will be using Tag Rugby to develop a variety of physical skills including movement, agility, balance, coordination, spatial awareness and developing tactics working as part of a team. On Tuesdays the children will continue swimming up until the half-term holiday. After the holiday the children will continue with Gymnastics.

**\*\*Currently we will be doing Gymnastics on a Monday morning until the swimming pool is up and running again. Please ensure PE kits are in school for this. We will update you when swimming resumes once again.**

**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.

After the half-term holiday our topic will be all about the USA, another fascinating topic, which is new to Year 4 this year: Road Trip USA:

We will teach children about the United States, past and present, developing children's knowledge of Native American culture, map reading, and the physical and human features of key locations in the United States.

**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 we will be teaching reading skills using a guided reading approach, alongside independent reading using the Accelerated Reader program.

**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 continue to use an online computing platform called Purple Mash. The children have their own 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 his animals in the rainforests artwork.

**Music:**

This term the children will be learning the clarinet on Thursdays starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September with Time2Learn.

**MFL:**

Miss Bell will be teaching Spanish to the children. This will take place during PPA time on Fridays.

**RHE (Relationship and Health Education):**

This term we will be learning about Democracy and then Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol.

We hope this has been helpful. We have an open-door policy so if you have any concerns, please feel free to speak to us after school. Alternatively, ring the school on 01798 872007, arrange an appointment at the School Office or email [usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:usa@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk).

Kind regards,

Mrs Gowland and Mrs Martin-Wells  
USA Class Teachers