



The Blake CE Primary School

Cogges Hill Road, Witney, Oxon OX28 3FR

Telephone 01993 702840

Email office.3600@blake.oxon.sch.uk

Website <http://www.blake.oxon.sch.uk/website>

Headteacher Tim Edwards-Grundy



Committed to the care and education of your child within a Christian setting

Year 4 Newsletter Autumn Term

Welcome to Year Four!

We hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday! The children have settled in well and are working hard. We are all looking forward to a happy and successful year and hope this newsletter will provide all the information you need to support your child. The Year 4 team aim to bring the curriculum alive for your child by providing a wide variety of learning opportunities over the year, as well as supporting individual learning where appropriate.

Times of the school day

Year 4 open their cloakroom doors at 8:55am. We would ask for your support in ensuring that the children arrive promptly in the morning. The doors are locked at 9:10am and any latecomers must enter through the school office where a register of late arrivals is kept. Break time is from 10.40am - 10.55am. Lunch time starts at 12:00pm and finishes at 1:00pm, Year 4 eat their lunch during the second sitting of family service at 12:30pm. The school day finishes at 3.15pm.

Collective worship

During the week we have an act of worship every day, either as an assembly in the hall or in our classrooms. The children end the day with a reflection time, when they think about the things they have achieved during the day and then say the school prayer.

Curriculum

Subjects such as Maths, English (including spelling and grammar), Science, PE, RE and PSHE tend to be taught separately, but other subjects may be taught in a cross curricular manner through 'topics'. For example, next term's Stone Age topic links History, English and Art.

Emotional and social development

Through our PSHE lessons and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) groups, the children learn skills that help them to get on with others in a positive way. We find this helps them to foster good relationships in the playground. In Year 4, the children are very excited to be the older partners in our 'buddy' sessions. They will be paired with children from Year 1 and will meet with them regularly, throughout the year, in order to develop the relationships that create such a wonderful community feel in our school.

PE

PE kit is required to be in school on Thursdays for both Year 4 Classes. Swimming kit is required on a Monday for both classes. It is important that your child has their PE kit in school at all times in case the time is changed or it is needed for another activity.

Our PE kit is as follows;

- Indoor kit - Plain white T-shirt (with or without school logo) and black shorts
- Outdoor kit - Plain white T-shirt (with or without school logo), black shorts or jogging bottoms, sweatshirt (for cold weather) and trainers

Long hair needs to be tied back for PE so a hair-tie should be brought in if required. **Earrings need to be removed by the child prior to the start of the lesson.** Some children choose not to wear earrings on PE

days as they find this easier. PE is part of our curriculum and therefore all children are expected to take part. If there is a medical reason why they cannot participate, a letter signed by a parent or carer is required.

Homework

Homework tasks are related to the week's work or cross-curricular topic. Usually spellings, times tables and one other piece of work will be set on Friday. We collect it in on the following Wednesday, thus giving time during the weekend or the week to complete the work. Occasionally, we will set a more project based homework and give longer for it to be completed. This work should be mainly done by the child, with support if required. Some parents have written on the work the amount of support needed and level of difficulty or ease experienced by the child; this is very helpful to us. Of course, your child may also write a short comment themselves. We understand that family life is often busy and please let us know if your child is unable to complete their homework one week; we can be flexible!

Reading

The children have been given new home/school reading diaries. Please feel free to write in these as well as your child. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading with your child at home as reading is a necessary skill for all work at school. Book bags with reading books and diaries should be brought to school every day. Our reading diaries have information and questions that you can ask your child related to their books. As well as reading accurately and fluently, your child needs to be able to discuss what they have read, referring to the text to back up their answers. They are also working on developing the skills and confidence to read aloud, with expression, to an audience, e.g. reading a story to the rest of the class or reading their work in sharing assembly. You will have access to books from the library as well as our Year 4 reading area.

School Visits

In the next few weeks Year 4 will be taking part in a special 'Harvest Experience'. This is held at High Street Methodist Church and forms part of the RE Curriculum for the term. The children will explore different types of harvest and this opportunity was a real highlight for the Year 4 children last autumn.

As part of our Stone Age topic, we are planning a trip to Stonehenge. This will be an exciting experience for all of the children and staff! More details about this trip will be given in October.

We are also planning a residential trip linked with our Romans topic in the Spring Term. This includes an overnight stay. Last year's trip was a great success - the children learnt a lot and they had lots of fun. Information and details will follow nearer the time.

We look forward to a happy and successful term. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. It is best to do this at the end of the day and, if necessary, an appointment can be made for a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely

The Year 4 Team

The Year 4 Team are:

Class 4DR

Class Teacher: Miss. Robertson

Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Hook, Mrs. Sayles and Mrs. Hitchman

Class 4AH

Class Teacher: Mrs. Raven/Mr. Hope

Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Hook, Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Hitchman

Curriculum Overview Terms 1 and 2

Across the first two terms we will be covering the following areas in our curriculum:

English:

- Individual, shared & guided reading using a range of texts - fiction & non-fiction
- Note-taking for use in cross curricular work
- Descriptive writing
- Letter and diary writing
- Stories using a historical setting
- Poetry linked to Harvest
- On-going spelling and grammar work
- Speaking and listening skills - presenting information
- Focus texts: *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *The Way home*, *Grace Darling*, *UG*, *Bog Baby* and *The Butterfly Lion*.

History:

The Stone Age to the Iron Age

- Archaeologists
- Stone Age timeline and ordering events in chronological order
- Communication and Cave paintings
- Stone Age and Bronze Age homes
- Stone Age and Bronze Age animals
- Stonehenge
- Fantastic Finish - design and make a Stone Age to Iron Age board game!

Visits: **Stonehenge**

PSHE:

- Family Links
- Values of the month - Caring, Responsibility, Trust and Humility

Visits:

- Cogges Farm Museum Apple Ceremony

RE:

- Moses & his relevance to Jewish and Christian Faiths
- Exodus
- 10 Commandments
- Harvest
- Sukkot
- Christmas with a focus on Mary

Visits:

- Harvest experience at the Methodist Church

Maths:

- Place value, ordering numbers including negative numbers
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division - using mental strategies and written methods
- Money & real-life problems

KIRFS (Key Instant Recall Facts)

- Number bonds to 100
- Multiplication and division facts for up to 12×12 .

PE:

- Swimming - Mondays
- Invasion Games - Thursdays

French:

- Parts of the Body (including clothes)
- Counting to 31
- Months
- My Home

Music:

- Singing - ongoing skills in singing practice and Harvest songs
- Clarinet lessons every Wednesday which will include; pulse, pitch, volume, technique, following a conductor, note duration, singing and learning to play the instrument.

Computing (ICT):

- Internet research
- Word processing
- Making an informative presentation - PowerPoint
- Coding

Science:

- Scientific skills - observation and measuring
- Electricity

Art and Design Technology

- Sewing linked to Christmas
- Self portraits