

Year 4 Lent 2 Newsletter

Welcome back, I hope half term was filled with lots of lovely family time.

This may be a short half term but it will be jam-packed with new learning!

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

The Pied Piper of Hamelin –

The Pied Piper of Hamelin is set in 1284 in the town of Hamelin, Lower Saxony, Germany. This town was facing a rat infestation, and a piper, dressed in a coat of many coloured, bright cloth, appeared. This piper promised to get rid of the rats in return for a payment, to which the townspeople agreed.

Although the piper got rid of the rats by leading them away with his music, the people of Hamelin reneged on their promise. The furious piper left, vowing revenge. On July 26 of that same year, the piper returned and led the children away, never to be seen again, just as he did the rats.



During these book focuses, we will be creating descriptive sentences, letters of complaints, newspaper reports and diary entries.

Maths



This half term, as mathematicians, we are going to be focusing on the following:

Fractions

This unit builds on work done in Year 3 on fractions. It develops their understanding of equivalent fractions, before introducing them to fractions greater than 1 in the form of mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Children will learn to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.

It is also vital that children continue to practice their multiplication tables in preparation for the Multiplication Times Tables Check (MTC) in June. Children must know all tables up to the 12 times table, being able to answer questions within 6 seconds.

Please access TTRS, www.timestables.co.uk, Hit the Button and Sumdog regularly. Verbal practice is also useful.



RE

Our next unit of learning is based around 'Giving and Receiving' Believers who respond to God's word and become members of Christ's Body become intimately united with him: "In that body the life of Christ is communicated to those who believe, and who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ in his Passion and glorification." This is especially true of Baptism, which unites us to Christ's death and Resurrection, and the Eucharist, by which "really sharing in the body of the Lord, ... we are taken up into communion with him and with one another."



Why did everyone stay away from Eyam in 1665?

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become historians and delve into the history of the Anglo Saxons and their impact on Britain.

Here is an outline of our learning for this half term:

In **week one, as historians**, we will be answering what the plague actually was and where it started.

In **week two, as historians**, we will uncover how the plague reached Eyam.

In **week three, as historians**, we will research who died and survived in Eyam.

In **week four, as historians**, we will see what jobs could be done during 1665.

In **week five, as historians**, we will answer what children did during the 1665 'lockdown'.

In **week six, as historians**, we will investigate how the plague is similar/different to the Covid-19 pandemic.

All our history learning this half term links with the following National Curriculum areas:

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.



Guided Reading

For our Guided Reading this half term, we are going to be developing our inferential and retrieval skills. As we become more confident with this, we will work towards timed exercises and more independent question answering. We use the ERIC approach to Guided Reading (Explain, Retrieval, Interpret and Choice). To build these skills this half term, we are going to be reading 'Children of Winter' by Berlie Doherty.



Catherine and her family set out for her grandmother's house deep in the Derbyshire hills. Sheltering from a storm in an old cruck barn with her younger sister and brother, it becomes strangely familiar to her, and she is drawn back to a time when three children sheltered all winter from a terrible plague that was devastating their village.

Berlie Doherty recreates a time when the tiny village of Eyam in Derbyshire cut itself off from the rest of England in 1666.

Science

In science, we will be investigating sound. We will listen to sounds around us, find out how the ear works, compare the effectiveness of the human ear with animal ears and investigate how sound can be muffled or blocked – making our own ear defenders!



How can you help?

If you ever need to contact me, just catch on the gate on Tuesday mornings, or any time after school. I can also be contacted through the info@cha.srscmat.co.uk email address – Miss Smith will forward anything that is meant for me!

Daily reading is essential. The fluency and understanding of a text is now embedded, but we still need to work together to continuously challenge the children with their question answering, expression, tone and pace. Your child will be heard read at least 3 times a week in school by an adult, so please ensure that you listen to them read at home.

This year, there will also be the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This will take place in the Summer Term and is a statutory test for Year 4 children in England. More information will follow through the year, but there will be a real push on division facts and extending the times table knowledge your child has.

Any questions, just ask.

Mrs Brassington and Miss McGrail