

Year 4 Advent 1 Newsletter

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely summer break;
I am very excited to be starting our new school year in Year 4.

English

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

The Caravan –

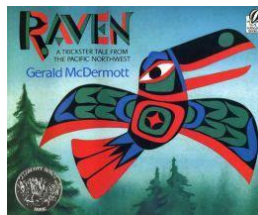
An atmospheric warning story about two boys who are told not to play near the pylon but of course – they do! A reminder about staying safe and not disobeying the rules whilst developing descriptive language and story patterns.



Raven -

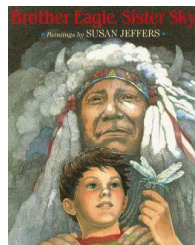
Raven the trickster wants to give people the gift of light. But can he sneak into the house of the Sky Chief and find out where light is hidden? It seems impossible, but if anyone can find a way to bring light to the world, wise and clever Raven can!

This story is a trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest.



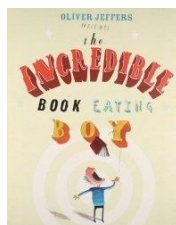
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky -

Chief Settle was a respected and peaceful leader of one of the Northwest Indian Nations. In the mid 1850's, the government in Washington wanted to buy the land of the Native Tribes. Chief Settle, spoke in his native tongue and many believe his 'speech' was one of the first environmental awareness speeches ever transcribed. His main message was to inspire, and that the earth is sacred.



The Incredible Book Eating Boy -

Henry discovers his unusual taste by mistake one day and is soon swept up in his new-found passion – gorging on every delicious book in sight! And better still, he realises that the more books he eats, the smarter he gets. Henry dreams of becoming the Incredible Book Eating Boy; the smartest boy in the world! But a book-eating diet isn't the healthiest of habits, as Henry soon finds out...



Maths



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

4-digit Numbers

This unit builds on previous learning in Year 3 about place value within 1,000. This previous learning introduced children to the concept of counting in 10s, comparing numbers, ordering numbers and using a number line to 1,000. Children will continue to use these previously learnt skills and apply them when working with 4-digit numbers. Before they start this unit, it is expected that children:

- have a solid understanding of place value within 1,000 from Year 3
- understand how to count in 10s and 100s
- can order and compare numbers to 1,000.

Addition and Subtraction

This unit builds on children's Year 3 work on adding and subtracting with 3-digit numbers. It further develops their estimation and answer-checking strategies and their problem-solving skills. This unit provides essential preparation for beginning to add and subtract numbers with more than four digits. Before they start this unit, it is expected that children:

- have a firm understanding of place value (up to 4-digit numbers)
- know a range of mental addition and subtraction strategies
- can apply these strategies to a range of contexts including measure.

Measure – perimeter

This unit builds on the concept of 2D shapes, in particular children's understanding of the properties of squares and rectangles. It also applies children's prior knowledge of measurement in practical contexts.

RE

Creation and covenant: 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1). In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is, comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.



Is North America all the same?

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become geographers and be completing a comparative study of North America!

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

In **week one, as geographers**, we will be exploring which countries make up North America.

In **week two, as geographers**, we will be identifying what States the USA has, and attempt to name them all!

In **week three, as geographers**, our focus will be on the languages that are spoken in the USA, and why.

In **week four, as geographers**, the Grand Canyon will be our focal point and we will be researching how it was made.

In **week five, as geographers**, we will be looking at the climate in America and decide if we need woolly hats or swimming costumes!

In **week six, as geographers**, our research will take us through different time zones as we explore why people in America wake up after us!

All our geography learning this half term links with the following National Curriculum strands:

Locational Knowledge

♣ identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place Knowledge

♣ understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and Physical Geography

♣ physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle



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 Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo.

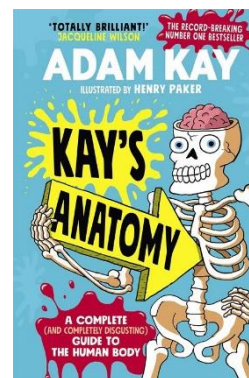


Science

I am super excited to share our first Science topic with you – because we get to carry out an experiment!

Our Enquiry Questions this half term is '**Can we eat what we want?**'

During this, we will be learning all about Animals including Humans, the digestive system, teeth, and all about poo!



How can you help?

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 regularly school by an adult, so please ensure that you listen to them read at home and record this in the Home/School diary.

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 your child's times table knowledge. We will use Timestables Rockstars, along with other online games to help us practice.

Homework will be set weekly on Seesaw including spellings, grammar and punctuation practice and maths.

I can be contacted through the info@cha.srscmat.co.uk email address – Miss Smith will forward anything that is meant for me!

Mrs Brassington and Mrs Fraser