



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 4 Termly Newsletter: Spring 2020

We hope that you have had a fantastic Christmas and look forward to having a wonderful 2020 working together. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed about what your children will be learning this term. If we need to share information with you, we will use the 'text to parents' service, so please make sure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number for you.

English: We will be working hard in English to develop the children's reading, writing and speaking and listening. We will be reading a number of fictional texts such as 'Fox' by Margaret Wild and 'The Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells. These texts will inspire the children and enable them to write in a range of text types such as dialogue, diary entries, narrative, newspaper articles and non-fiction. They will be practising and further developing their writing skills, including the use of descriptive language, punctuation, grammar and spelling patterns. We will also be learning about Roman Gods, linked to our continuing thematic topic and will be compiling a class anthology of Gods created by the children.

Maths: In our maths learning this term, we will begin by looking at multiplication and introducing the children to the expanded column method in accordance with the Pegasus calculation policy (supporting videos can be found on the trust website). We will then be looking at Roman numerals to 100 and linking this to our work in thematic. Following this, we will begin by focusing on time, including analogue, digital and the twenty-four hour clock. Finally, we will be looking at fractions, including equivalence and addition and subtraction. As always, we will be seeking to deepen the children's understanding of these concepts through reasoning and problem solving. We will also be focusing on recall of times tables facts up to 12 x 12 in preparation for the 'Multiplication Tables Check' in June.

Science: Our science topics are Living things and their Habitats and Animals including Humans. In Living Things and their Habitats we will be studying life processes, habitats, how animals adapt to their surroundings and how humans are impacting on this. In Animals including Humans, we will learn about teeth and the digestive system in humans, moving on to food webs including predators, producers and prey.

Thematic: Until half term, we will be continuing with our When in Rome theme. In history, we will be learning about Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius. The children will have a chance to create their own Roman mosaic from ceramic tiles and a Roman purse from felt. In geography, we will be learning about how the Roman Empire ended and comparing Italy to Britain. After half term, we will begin by completing an artists study of architect, Antoni Gaudi. We will then start our new topic of Invaders and Settlers. This will include an introduction to the topic using timelines, looking at who invaded Britain after the Romans left and who the Angles, Saxons and Jutes were.

Trips and events: This term we will be visiting the British Wildlife Centre in East Sussex to extend our science learning on habitats. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about British wildlife up close! We will also be visiting the Tate Britain to see the Year 3 exhibition. The children were all photographed for this last year and will be shown the location of their class photo as well as having an opportunity to see all the other photos in the exhibit.

What you can do to help: Please make sure that your child reads every night and sign their reading diary at the end of the week. Regular reading is proven to improve children's learning. Ask them questions about what they've read. Ask them what they think the words mean or what the character might be thinking or feeling. There is no such thing as a night with 'no homework': every night is reading night! Lists of spelling words, taken from our weekly spelling sessions, are available from your child's class teacher. Times tables need constant revision - children should know these facts instantly, in mixed order, and know the corresponding division facts. By the end of Year 4, children are now expected to know their times tables to 12 x 12. 'Mathletics' is our on-line maths homework. Children are expected to earn 1000 points (a bronze certificate) each week but are welcome to earn more points! 'Live' Mathletics is particularly good for developing mental maths skills. 'Times Table Rockstars' is a new online resource that provides carefully sequenced daily times tables practice. Children can access this using their 'Mathletics' usernames and passwords.

The Year 4 Team

Don't forget to check the website at: www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Dates for your diary:

Whole Trust dates:

Friday 7th February — Museum Day

Thursday 5th March—World Book Day

Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Friday 17th January	4C class assembly
Monday 10th February	British Wildlife Centre (Sycamore see Ecclesbourne)
Friday 6th March	Visit to the Year 3 exhibition at the Tate Britain

Ecclesbourne Primary School

Wednesday 12th February	British Wildlife Centre
Friday 28th February	Visit to the Year 3 exhibition at the Tate Britain

Cypress Junior School

Monday 27th January	Margaret Bateson-Hill doing workshops with Year 4 classes
Tuesday 11th February	British Wildlife Centre
Friday 13th March	Visit to the Year 3 exhibition at the Tate Britain