



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Year 4 Termly Newsletter: Autumn 2019

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you have had a fantastic summer and look forward to having a wonderful year 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 skills. We will be reading a number of fictional texts such as *The Promise* by Nicola Davies, *Kindlekrax* by Philip Ridley and *The Chicken Thief* by Beatrice Rodriguez. These texts will inspire the children and enable them to write in a range of genres such as dialogue, diary entries, narrative, newspaper articles and non-fiction. They will be practising and developing their writing skills including the use of descriptive language, punctuation including inverted commas for speech and grammar. We will also be focusing on spelling and building on learning from Year 3 to further our understanding of spelling and phonics. In line with the school handwriting policy (<http://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/curriculum/writing-and-handwriting/handwriting>) we will be teaching weekly handwriting lesson with the aim of all students developing a joined and fluent style.

Maths: In our maths learning this term, our focus will be place value. This will involve recognising the place value of numbers up to 4 digits, ordering them, working with negative numbers and rounding to 10, 100 and 1000. We will also be building on the column methods for addition and subtraction that the children learnt in Year 3 and looking at measures. For each unit we cover, we will be helping the children apply their new maths learning to investigations and mathematical problems including mastery of these skills. We will be using talk partners and collaborative tasks to develop children's understanding of mathematical vocabulary and to encourage them to verbalise their thinking. By the end of year 4, children need to recall all the times-table facts up to 12x12. To support this at home, children can access TTRockstars which is an online resource .

Science: Our science topics are Sound and States of Matter. In our topic on Sound, we will learn how sound is caused by vibrations, how we hear sounds and how things like pitch and loudness can affect sounds. In States of Matter, we will be studying the differences between solids, liquids and gases, investigating the different states of water and learning about the water cycle.

Thematic: This term our theme is: When in Rome. In history, we will be learning about the Roman invasion of Britain, Boudicca and the Celts and how Roman inventions and innovations are still in use today. In geography, we will be learning about how the Roman Empire spread, Roman society and comparing Celtic Britain to Rome. In Art, children will learn to design a Roman shield and study mosaics. In DT, we will be making our shields and creating working volcanoes. Places of interest, linked to our theme, that you could visit with your child are the Museum of London, Colchester, Bath or the local library to research Ancient Rome.

Trips and events: This term we will be holding our very own Roman Day. We will be visited by two Roman soldiers, in full costume, who will lead day long workshops explaining how the Romans conquered Iron Age Britain, why they were such an effective fighting force, what new ideas and inventions they brought with them and how these have had an impact on life in Britain today. It would be fantastic if all the children could dress up in Roman costumes.

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 for each year group are available and children are expected to know these by the end of the year. Times-tables need constant revision - children should know these facts instantly, in mixed order, and know the corresponding division fact. 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.

The Year 4 Team

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

Dates for your diary:**Whitehorse Manor Junior School**

Friday 11th October	Roman Day. Children will take part in workshops delivered by 'real-life' Romans. They can come to school dressed as a Roman. Y4 children at Brigstock will join Ecclesbourne for this event on Wednesday 9th October.
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Friday 18th October - 11am	4S (Camargue) Harvest assembly.
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Ecclesbourne Primary School

Wednesday 9th October	Roman Day. Children will take part in workshops delivered by 'real-life' Romans. They can come to school dressed as a Roman.
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Friday 22nd November - 11am	Planets class assembly.
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Cypress Junior School

Tue 8th/Wed 9th October 2019	Parents' Evening 3.30—6.30pm Please make an appointment with your class teacher when the letters are handed out to the children.
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Thursday 10th October	Roman Day. Children will take part in workshops delivered by 'real-life' Romans. They can come to school dressed as a Roman—please ask your child's teacher for help or ideas!
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Wednesday 30th October	Year 4 Harvest assembly. There are two performances, 9:15am and 2:00pm
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Friday 29th November	Hawthorn class assembly 9.10am
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Thursday 19th December	Rowan class assembly 9.10am
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